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Panel divided over 'Monologues'

Professors, bishop's representative discuss sociological implications of controversial play



Sophomore Miriam Olsen performs the monologue "My Angry Vagina" Wednesday during the "Vagina Monologues."

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

A panel discussing the sociological implications of "The Vagina Monologues" followed the second production of Eve Ensler's controversial play Thursday in DeBartolo 101 and incorporated the views of Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy through a representative.

Opponents continued to protest the play after 20 to 30 students walked out of Wednesday's performance, and greeted the attendees by handing them religious medals and a copy of D'Arcy's condemnation of the show.

The panel was composed of Lisa Everett, D'Arcy's repre-

sentative and co-director of the Offices of Family in Fort Wayne-South Bend, sociology professor Jessica Collett, anthropology professor Carolyn Nordstrom and political science professor Christine Wolbrecht.

Everett, the only member of the panel who also appeared after Wednesday's performance, echoed D'Arcy's sentiments regarding the "Monologues" and restated many of the same points she made the previous night.

In a six-page statement released on March 12, D'Arcy said allowing the play on campus "... is not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university" and said the play was

see VAGINA/page 6

ND student reports rape

Female claims sexual assault in dormitory

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

A female student reported an alleged sexual assault to the Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) on March 23, NDSP assistant director Dave Chapman said.

The police report on NDSP's crime blotter listed the offense as "rape."

According to Chapman, the alleged assault took place in a residence hall late Friday night or early Saturday morning. The student reported the incident to authorities Sunday, he said.

The suspect was an acquaintance of the student's Chapman said, and was invited to the student's room.

NDSP would not say whether the suspect was a student or in which dorm the alleged assault occurred. For privacy reasons, NDSP would not say whether the victim was taken to the hospital or received medical attention.

"The case is continuing and being investigated," Chapman said.

The alleged sexual assault case is the first of its kind reported to NDSP this year, Chapman said.

In an e-mail sent to students after the interview, NDSP reported that "The student reported that the assault was committed by a male acquaintance that was an invited guest in the student's residence hall room."

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IUSB to host 24-hour dance marathon

Students, community encouraged to participate in fundraiser for Center for the Homeless

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

Indiana University at South Bend (IUSB) will give Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students as well as the Michiana community a reason to get together and get down next month when it hosts its first annual 24-hour dance marathon in support of the South Bend Center for the Homeless (CFH).

The event will last from 12

p.m. to 12 p.m. on April 19 and April 20. Regis Philbin will kick off the festivities. He will introduce the lineup of main stage entertainment, which starts at 6 p.m. and will feature local bands.

According to Jacqueline Kronk, director of Development and Public Relations at CFH, the fundraiser is to raise awareness for the cause of homelessness.

Although they will be dancing for 24 straight hours, participants will be provided with 13 meals throughout the 24 hours

in order to recharge. In addition, entertainment will be provided for those who do not want to dance.

"Other activities at the event do not require dancing — live bands, computer access, video game competitions, sports tournaments, socializing, listening to guests from the Center sharing their stories, and plenty of eating," Kronk said.

The event will also feature a "family hour" towards the end, when CFH staff and residents will share their experiences

with participants.

Participants can sign up for the event at danceforthehomeless.com. In addition to paying a \$15 fee, dancers must raise at least \$250 in pledges.

An easier option for students participating with friends is purchasing a "Miracle Pass" for a cost of \$50, which allows ten students to participate in events from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Saturday.

Kronk said that response to

see DANCE/page 4

Panel examines local effects of immigration

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Panelists said deporting illegal immigrants had a negative effect on the South Bend community Wednesday in DeBartolo Hall.

Panelists examined the issue examined from the perspectives of religion, healthcare, law, education and economics.

Senior economics major Jamie Grebowski's summer research project, which examined the economic impact of undocumented workers in South Bend, started after immigrant parishioners of St. Adalbert's Parish were deported in immigration raids.

Grebowski, along with other researchers, surveyed 62 immigrants, 40 of whom were undocumented. Their survey was based on the transactions of

adults in the community according to assets such as labor income, consumer goods purchased and taxes paid. The survey also looked at benefits they receive from government programs such as welfare.

"On average, over \$4,000 a month per individual is going into the community from undocumented workers," he said.

The study ultimately concluded that deportation of undocumented immigrants negatively affects South Bend's economy.

"Deporting undocumented workers is economically harmful to South Bend. We established that, in total, the immigrant population contributes between \$2 million dollars and about \$10.5 million to the community," Grebowski said.

Manager of Memorial Hospital's Hispanic Initiative

see PANEL/page 4

ND-8 simulates poverty

Group sponsors dinner to raise awareness on campus of world hunger

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

World poverty awareness group ND-8 tried to simulate experiences of those living in extreme poverty by dividing students into different socioeconomic groups during the second annual Hunger Banquet Thursday in the Coleman-Morse Center.

"We are here because 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1 a day," freshman Coleen Halloran said.

ND-8 officer Christie Hannon, who was the chief planner of the Hunger Banquet, said she hoped students left the banquet with a "better awareness of the reality of the people that live in poverty, and also an appreciation of what we have."

see DINNER/page 6



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

Students sit on the floor of the Coleman-Morse lounge as a part of ND-8's poverty simulation dinner Thursday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Lost in Harry Potter

It's 9 p.m. on Thursday and I'm watching Xavier take my bracket and light it on fire by losing to West Virginia with two minutes left. The only explanation: 'Lost' isn't on this week.

I came to the realization that many of the characters in 'Lost' have alter-egos in 'Harry Potter.' Jack is Harry, hands down. Like Harry, one goal, to get off the island at all costs, motivates him throughout the series. Harry doesn't know it the whole time, but his goal is to destroy Voldemort. Both are misunderstood by their friends at times, and both play the voice of reason in their respective settings.



Bill Brink

News Editor

My favorite character on 'Lost,' Ben, is clearly Snape. Is he good or bad? Ben once gassed the entire island; Snape was once a Death Eater. One second Ben is shooting people in the back; the next, he's divulging secrets to Locke. Nothing Snape does is one-sided, and it's impossible to interpret the motives or ends of his actions. Are his occlumency lessons intended to protect Harry from Voldemort or widen his mind so the Dark Lord can get easy access? Difficult questions, and like Snape in the books, I don't think we'll find out Ben's motives and goals until the end of the series.

The gaseous cloud of death has to be Voldemort before he got his body back, if only for the physical likeness. The implausibility of both also links them. Where does a cloud of gas come from on an island in the south Pacific? How did one-seventh of Voldemort's soul survive to float around in Albania for 14 years? Unicorn blood? I'm not buying it.

Xavier just forced overtime. Ballin. Juliet has got to be Cho. She's not right for Jack in the same way as Cho wasn't right for Harry. Jack's only with her to [tick] off Kate for sleeping with Sawyer. Soap opera-esque drama aside, it's the truth.

Jacob, the invisible voice in the shack that only Ben can talk to, is the Dumbledore of the island. I don't know what it (he?) is, but I do know that it knows everything we want to know. Ben is right about far too many things for Jacob not to be legit. Likewise, Dumbledore was always seven steps ahead of everyone else and knew the outcome of events, as well as their causes, before they happened.

Locke is Malfoy, an impudent little brat whose power trip dug him into a hole he doesn't know how to get out of. Just like Malfoy failed to kill Dumbledore, Locke could not discern what Ben knew, what the Dharma Initiative was, or why the people from Whitmore's boat are there.

There are some other possibilities. Hurley as Neville? (Useless). Jin as Krum? (Tough time with English). Sawyer as Cedric Diggory? (Athletic ladies' man).

In Harry's absence, I'll continue to make comparisons and look forward to the rest of 'Lost.' In high spirits because Xavier rained down treys in overtime to win, keeping my bracket intact, I'll look forward to 'Lost' with happiness and confusion.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT TELEVISION SHOW ARE YOU ADDICTED TO AND WHY?



Kevin Donohue

sophomore
Keough

"The Way Things Work,' because I'm trying to figure out myself."



Manuel Olguin

senior
off-campus

"The Office,' I don't need a reason, Dwight says it all."



Ellen Fitzsimmons

senior
off-campus

"Lost,' because I like to talk about it at Finnigans."



Patrick Leimkuehler

senior
off-campus

"Lost,' because they never answer any questions."



Beck Roan

sophomore
Morrisey

"I like 'House,' because of Chase's hair."



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

A barren tree on South Quad is reflected in a mixture of snow and rain that fell during a storm Thursday. The downpour emphatically showed that spring has not yet arrived at Notre Dame.

OFFBEAT

Man tries to pay bill with toilet paper check

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — An upstate New York man embroiled in a dispute over his water bill is not being allowed to pay off his debt with a check written on toilet paper. Ron Borgna tried to settle his \$2,509.66 bill with a check written on floral print, two-ply toilet paper Wednesday.

The disagreement began in September 2006 when Borgna received a \$422.90 water bill. Borgna claims he was overbilled. With additional charges, penalties and late fees that bill has grown.

Binghamton city officials refused to accept the check. After a short argument, Borgna was escorted out of the building.

Borgna says he is appealing the judgment against him in small claims court.

Python surprises owner of new apartment

GLEN BURNIE, Md. — Anne Arundel County police say a Glen Burnie woman was surprised by a three-foot python that slithered out from behind her media stand while she watched television in her living room.

It happened Sunday at the

woman's apartment in the 8000 block of Green Orchard Road.

The woman, who has lived in the apartment for two months, does not own the snake. Officers believe the snake was left behind by a previous tenant.

The snake will remain at Animal Control in Millersville for five days to give its owner a chance to pick it up. If it's not claimed, officers say the snake will be sent to a rescue organization.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed today in 101 DeBartolo at 7 p.m. A panel discussion will follow the performance.

BCAC is looking for volunteers to help with BCAC Fashion Show 2008. The show takes place April 5 at 8 p.m. Please email BCAC@nd.edu if you are interested.

Amanda Anderson, Caroline Donovan Professor of English Literature at Johns Hopkins University, will speak at the 2008 Annual Ward-Phillips Lecture Series. Her lecture is titled "Bleak Liberalism" and will continue through Friday at 5 p.m. in 100 McKenna Hall. A reception follows the lecture.

The Student Union Board will show the movie "Atonement" in 101 DeBartolo at 10 p.m. Thursday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$3.

Siegfried Hall will host the Rambler Scrambler, a miniature golf tournament, Saturday at Stepan Center at 8 p.m. Free pizza, pop and Jimmy John's will be available. The event benefits Lou Gherig's Disease research, and iPods, cameras and iTunes gift cards will be raffled off.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play Cincinnati Friday at 5:05 p.m. at Eck Field.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	ICON		ICON		ICON		ICON		ICON		ICON	
	HIGH	44	HIGH	35	HIGH	48	HIGH	51	HIGH	53	HIGH	50
	LOW	35	LOW	30	LOW	32	LOW	36	LOW	36	LOW	34

Atlanta 76 / 52 Boston 37 / 33 Chicago 39 / 26 Denver 51 / 28 Houston 81 / 65 Los Angeles 70 / 52 Minneapolis 39 / 23 New York 41 / 36 Philadelphia 47 / 41 Phoenix 87 / 57 Seattle 46 / 35 St. Louis 48 / 41 Tampa 82 / 61 Washington 64 / 50

University to host Asian film festival

Special to the Observer

The University of Notre Dame will host filmmakers and scholars March 27 to 29 (Thursday to Saturday) for the annual Asian Film Festival and conference, this year titled "Love at First Sight: Romance and Relationships in Asian and Asian American Cinema."

The festival will showcase four award-winning films in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Admission is \$6 for the general public, \$5 for Notre Dame faculty and staff, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance at <http://performingarts.nd.edu> or by calling the center box office at 574-631-2800.

The films are:

♦ "Train Man" -- This 2005 film directed by Masanori Murakami is based on true events that took place on a popular bulletin board Web site in Japan. This is the fairy-tale story of one geek, one beauty, and 1,000 noisy chat room residents. (March 27 at 7 p.m.)

♦ "The Trouble with Romance" -- Directed by

Gene Rhee, this 2007 film takes place in one Los Angeles hotel where each room hides a different trouble with romance. (March 28 at 7 p.m.)

♦ "My Sassy Girl" -- This 2001 film directed by Jae-young Kwak is based on an on-line serial written by Kim Ho-sik that details his relationship with his off-the-wall college girlfriend. (March 29 at 7 p.m.)

♦ "Omkara" -- Directed by Vishal Bharadwaj, "Omkara" is a film adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy, "Othello." This 2006 film traces one man's unrelenting jealousy and all-consuming obsession against the backdrop of political warfare in the interiors of Uttar Pradesh. (March 29 at 10 p.m.)

The 2008 Asian and Asian American Film Festival is presented by the Center for Asian Studies, DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Provost Office's Asia Initiatives. It is sponsored and supported by more than a dozen departments, offices and organizations at Notre Dame and several external organizations, including the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

Eric's Promise collects donations

SMC nursing students gather clothes as part of Lenten project

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

As part of a Lenten project, Saint Mary's students helped collect clothing for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County as part of the Eric's Promise project.

Last year, Mary Molnar, the director of nursing at the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in South Bend, visited a class of Saint Mary's nursing students to discuss different aspects of hospice care.

While there, she told the students about her son, Eric Henry Molnar, who was killed in a car accident in early 2002.

Senior Lindsey Piehl, the president of the Student Nurses Association (SNA), said Molnar told the group that Eric had gathered several bags of old clothing to donate to Saint Vincent de Paul.

"His Lenten mission which he told his mother was to 'be more giving,'" Piehl said.

Eric was never able to

make that donation to Saint Vincent de Paul due to the accident, but his mother made sure the clothes made it to the center, she said. Molnar decided to continue her son's mission to be more giving each year.

"[Molnar] has encouraged the South Bend Community to continue in fulfilling Eric's Lenten wish by collecting clothing and household goods during the Lenten season," Piehl said. "To this date more than 65,000 pounds of

items have been donated."

Piehl said SNA decided to bring the Eric's Promise project to Saint Mary's because all the women who heard

Molnar speak wanted to help and the group wanted to allow the entire community to help as well.

"This project is a matter close to the nursing majors' hearts ... We wanted to get the entire Saint Mary's com-

munity involved in donating to such a meaningful service," she said.

For one week, from March 11 to March 21, SNA placed barrels and boxes in each of the residence halls and the student center atrium to allow students and staff to donate clothing to the project.

Piehl said SNA was very happy with the College's generous response to the project.

"The barrels and boxes were all filled to the top and many were overflowing with items," she said. "Saint Mary's proved to be 'more giving' during this week of Lent."

She said she hopes the College continues to participate in Eric's Promise in the years to come because it allows Saint Mary's to give back to the St. Joseph community of which they are a part.

"This was a great opportunity for our community to be more like Eric Henry and make a conscious effort to be more giving," Piehl said.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

"This project is a matter close to the nursing majors' hearts."

Lindsey Piehl
Saint Mary's senior

"This was a great opportunity for our community to be more like Eric Henry ..."

Lindsey Piehl
Saint Mary's senior

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Panel

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Leonora Battani said immigrants in South Bend are given access to health care regardless of their legal status.

"We in South Bend are very lucky that we have two hospitals that treat patients from seven or eight counties," she said. "They treat immigrants just that any person needs to be treated."

According to Battani, the language barrier presents the greatest challenge for health care professionals when treating immigrants.

"The biggest problem we have is language — that is where the inequities start. Many hospitals can't offer language services, including interpreters or translation of documents," she said. "Here in South Bend, most of the major health services are bilingual — that has a lot to say for where we live and how welcoming we are to immigrants."

Helping to combat language barriers in South Bend through the South Bend Community School Corporation, bilingual education coordinator for the South Bend Community School Corporation Bill Barna said students who are learning English as a second language are often the first generation in their family to do so.

"In our 'English as a New Language' program, 96 percent of students have Spanish as their home language, in second place at two percent is Arabic and then there's about 24 other

languages that make up the rest," Barna said.

According to Barna, children face many pressures as a result of having parents who are immigrants.

"Of all the students we serve, 75 to 80 percent are citizens of the U.S.; however, their parents may not be citizens," he said. "This has implications for our school system and puts pressure on parents that truly affects the students."

Barna also said immigration raids have affected many of the students he works with, and the raids can have a negative impact on their learning and concentration in the classroom.

Barna said his department works to ease the communication barrier for students' parents.

"We provide ... translation services in Spanish for our parents," he said. "Any time there's a conference that needs an interpreter, we provide that to the school. We translate a number of [legal] documents for parents, so parents are knowledgeable about what is happening in school and with their child."

Immigration laws also present many hurdles for families, according to directing attorney of the Immigrants' Rights Center at Indiana Legal Services Lee A. O'Connor.

"There are substantial legal problems for people who are here as immigrants," O'Connor said. "We often think of people here as legal or illegal, and that's not a good way to think about it ... It's often more of a continuum than an issue of undocumented or not."

O'Connor said there is an

emerging trend of immigrant men marrying American women in South Bend.

"One of the things that really surprised me when I came to South Bend was the number of situations where you have a Mexican man married to an American woman," O'Connor said.

O'Connor said immigrants have to complete a two-step process in order to gain legal status. First, a U.S. citizen has the right to petition for a relative who is an immigrant. Then an immigrant must qualify affirmatively.

O'Connor said this is almost impossible for anyone who entered the country illegally to attain a visa.

"Immigration law has been made so complicated and difficult in the last few years, that even people with a clean record that are married to an American [citizen] face a daunting process," O'Connor said.

He also said immigrants who enter the country are asked to go back to their country of origin and apply to the U.S. Consulate before returning to the U.S. But once immigrants leave, they are disqualified from being able to acquire a green card for ten years.

"If [immigrants] come back in again unlawfully, it's a permanent bar and they have to wait 10 years before they can come back ... That's what I think far and away is the biggest problem," O'Connor said.

Fr. Chris Cox, Associate pastor of St. Adalbert Parish, examined immigration concerns from a religious standpoint, and said Catholics should

look to the Gospel of Matthew.

"We are supposed to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world ... adding something distinctive to the word today," he said. "When I look at the Church, I think we've sometimes lost our way and become invisible. Immigration profoundly affects our Church, and it's a decisive question for us."

Cox referred to the parable of Lazarus in the Gospel to emphasize his claim that the poor are often forgotten by society.

"As a Catholic university, education needs to be marked by the sign of the cross. We need to have the vision to see Lazarus out there, hear the cry of the poor ... and have the courage to act," he said. "There are many lenses we can put on the issue. What we believe as a Church is that the most important lens is the lens of faith. Are we going to take the lens from sounds bites on radio talk shows or from the lens of faith?"

Cox said based on his experiences in his parish, he believes the community has much to gain from immigrants.

"These are people that come from a rich Catholic heritage, that can bring new life to our churches," he said. "We will be enriched by welcoming the stranger."

The panel, entitled "Implications of Immigration for South Bend," was sponsored by the Department of Economics and Policy Studies and the Department of Economics and Econometrics.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Dance

continued from page 1

the event so far has been positive.

"The community has really embraced the event. I think they were ready for something outside the box," she said.

The event has been heavily publicized on television, radio, and billboards.

"We're confident and hopeful our marketing efforts will pay off big the day of the event ... It's a little bit of the 'If you build it they will come' mentality," Kronk said.

Kronk also said although she is unsure of the exact number, IUSB is ready to handle thousands of participants.

"We're prepared for thousands and with the way things are going with word spreading so much, we're optimistic that the event will be a success," she said.

To encourage students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross to attend, Kronk said IUSB is working to provide transportation to the dance site.

The event coincides with the annual Blue-Gold game on April 19, but Kronk said this is another good reason for students to consider buying a Miracle Pass.

"When determining a date for the dance marathon we took all high school and college academic calendars into consideration as well as other community events. This weekend is the first without spring breaks and vacations," Kronk said.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

SATURDAY MARCH 29

10 PM DOORS @ 9 PM

NO COVER

CHICAGO'S OWN LUCKY BOYS

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LIVE IN CONCERT

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 28, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Wilders offers film critical of Islam

AMSTERDAM — A Dutch lawmaker released a film highly critical of Islam on Thursday, setting verses of the Muslim holy book against a background of violent images from terrorist attacks.

Geert Wilders posted his 15-minute film on a Web site. Shortly afterward, Dutch television channels showed segments of the film and broadcast discussions by analysts on the possible impact of its release.

The Dutch government had warned Wilders that a film offensive to Muslims could spark violent protests in Islamic countries, like those two years ago after European newspapers published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

"The film equates Islam with violence. We reject this," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said in a televised reaction. "We ... regret that Mr. Wilders has released this film. We believe it serves no other purpose than to cause offense."

Bush endorses Croatian NATO bid

ZAGREB, Croatia — President Bush says he "strongly supports" Croatian membership in NATO, but has declined to say if the former Yugoslav country will be invited to join the alliance at a summit next week.

In an interview with the state-run Croatian television broadcast Thursday, Bush said the decision will be made by all NATO members.

Bush has said that Croatia is in a "very good position" to be invited to join. Membership in NATO and European Union are among the country's priorities.

Bush spoke in Washington before his trip next week to Ukraine, a NATO summit in Romania and Croatia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Unknown gunmen kill two motorists

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Gunfire that struck several vehicles and injured two people along a stretch of mountain highway had motorists and police on edge Thursday in a region where memories of the deadly Beltway snipers still haven't faded.

Authorities were seeking at least two people suspected of firing shots the night before that hit two cars, a van, a tractor-trailer and an unoccupied dump truck on Interstate 64 just west of Charlottesville. Two people were injured, but not seriously.

Col. Steven Flaherty, the state police superintendent, would not characterize the shootings as the work of snipers, calling it "random firing."

Court upholds murder conviction

PHILADELPHIA — An appeals court Thursday upheld Mumia Abu-Jamal's conviction for murdering a police officer 27 years ago but rejected prosecutors' request to reinstate the death penalty for the former Black Panther.

A three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that because the jury that sentenced Abu-Jamal to die was given flawed instructions in the penalty phase, he must either get a new sentencing hearing or be sentenced to life in prison.

Abu-Jamal's lead attorney, Robert R. Bryan of San Francisco, said he was glad the judges did not reinstate the death sentence, but added that he will continue fighting to get his client a new trial.

LOCAL NEWS

Murder appeal set to begin in May

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in May in the appeal of a former state trooper who was convicted of killing his wife and two children.

Louisville, Kentucky television station WAVE reports the court will hear arguments in David Camm's case May 22 in Indianapolis.

Camm is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole following his second conviction in the September 2000 murders of his wife, 35-year-old Kimberly, and their children, 7-year-old Bradley and 5-year-old Jill.

IRAQ

Al-Maliki vows 'no retreat' in Basra

Mobs protest against Prime Minister after he cracks down on Shiite militias

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged "no retreat" Thursday in the fight against Shiite militias in the southern city of Basra, as thousands of protesters demanded he resign over the crackdown and extremists fired rockets into the U.S.-protected Green Zone.

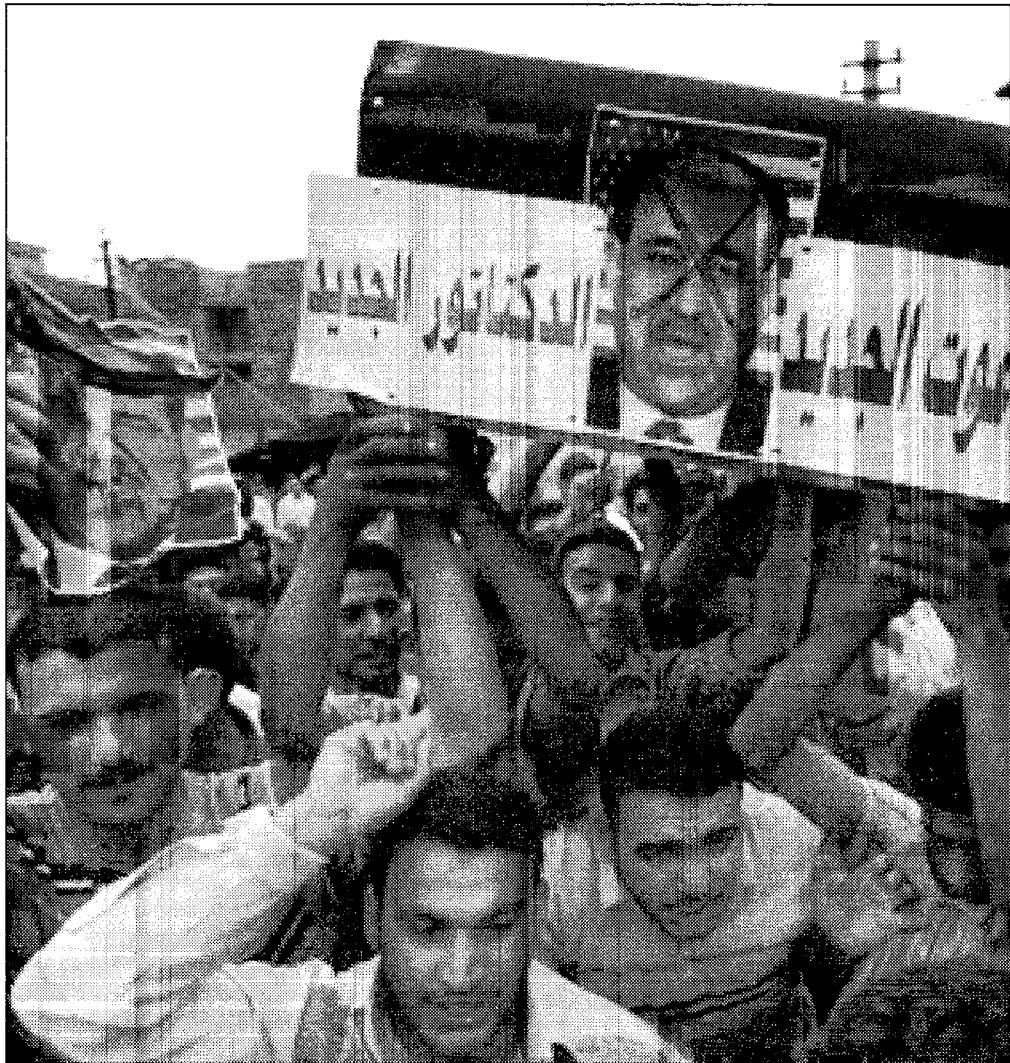
Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr called Thursday for a political solution to the burgeoning crisis and an end to the "shedding of Iraqi blood." But the statement, released by a close aide, stopped short of ordering his Mahdi Army militia to halt attacks on the Green Zone or stop fighting in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

In a sign of the deteriorating security, gunmen in Baghdad seized a high-profile government spokesman from his home in a Shiite neighborhood, killing three of his bodyguards and torching his house. In a bid to curb the violence, Iraq's military ordered vehicles and pedestrians off the streets of the capital until Sunday morning.

As Americans and Iraqis scrambled to cope with a newly violent Iraq, the State Department ordered all personnel at the U.S. Embassy not to leave reinforced structures because of continued incoming rocket or mortar fire from suspected Shiite extremists angry over the Basra crackdown.

The campaign to rid Basra of lawless gangs and Shiite militias — some believed tied to nearby Iran — is a major test for al-Maliki, a Shiite, and for the Iraqi military. The ability of Iraqi leaders and security forces to control situations like this one is key to U.S. hopes of withdrawing its forces from the country.

The prime minister put his credibility on the line by flying down to Basra and issuing a weekend deadline for the surrender of Mahdi Army militiamen loyal to al-Sadr. But the militiamen were still



Iraqi Shiites carry a mock coffin bearing an image of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki during a protest in Baghdad Thursday.

controlling Basra's streets Thursday, and the security operation has triggered a violent response among al-Sadr's followers in Baghdad and cities throughout the Shiite heartland of southern Iraq.

In the Baghdad neighborhood of Kazimiyah, thousands of al-Sadr's followers denounced al-Maliki as a "new dictator" as they carried a coffin bearing a crossed-out picture of the U.S.-backed prime minister. Thousands more also rallied in Sadr City, Baghdad's main Shiite district.

"We call on our brothers in the Iraqi army and the brave national police not to be tools of death in the hands of the new dictatorship," a Sadrist

member of parliament, Falah Shanshal, said.

However, al-Maliki showed no sign of wavering.

"We have made up our minds to enter this battle, and we will continue until the end. No retreat," al-Maliki told Basra area tribal leaders in a speech broadcast nationwide on Iraqi state TV.

Al-Maliki said Iraq had become a "nation of gangs, militias and outlaws" and he was undertaking a "historic mission" in Basra to restore "the law of the land."

But the Sadrists have been angry over recent raids and detentions, saying U.S. and Iraqi forces have taken advantage of their 7-month-old cease-fire to crack down on the movement.

They have accused rival Shiite parties, which control Iraqi security forces, of engineering the arrests to prevent them from mounting an effective campaign for provincial elections expected this fall. The Sadrists expect to make major electoral gains at the expense of rival parties, including those that maintain close ties to the United States.

American officials have acknowledged that the unilateral cease-fire declared by al-Sadr last August played a major role in reducing violence in Baghdad. U.S. and Iraqi officials have insisted that they are not targeting al-Sadr's movement but simply going after renegades, criminals and extremists with ties to Iran.

California cuts car fuel regulations

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California air regulators on Thursday slashed the number of battery-powered and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that must be sold in the state, a setback for environmentalists and health advocates.

The decision is expected to affect 12 other states that had adopted California's target for zero-emission vehicles.

The California Air Resources Board voted to lower by 70 percent the number of those vehicles that automakers must sell here and in the states that intended to follow California's get-tough rules for vehi-

cle emissions.

Instead, the air board said the six largest automakers must sell nearly 60,000 hybrid vehicles while they develop the more advanced technology that will allow mass production of pure zero-emission vehicles.

Board chairwoman Mary Nichols described the move as a major step toward putting cleaner cars on the road. The plug-in hybrids envisioned by the air board have yet to be designed, she said.

"We're introducing a whole new category of vehicles to the public," Nichols said. "I don't think it's a step backwards in the real world."

In essence, the air board took

two steps on Thursday: It cut the number of zero-emission vehicles it wants on the road by 2014, while at the same time offering an alternative — the gas-electric hybrids.

Environmentalists and health advocates criticized the lowering of the zero-emission goal for vehicles. They said the threats posed by global warming, combined with rising gasoline prices, lends urgency to greatly reducing vehicle emissions.

"We are disappointed. We think this proposal doesn't take us on the road to meeting the state's long-term global warming goals," said Spencer Quong, a senior vehicles analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Vagina

continued from page 1

"pornographic and spiritually harmful."

Everett said the Monologues undermine the point it claims to make because some of the sexual acts celebrated in the play desecrate women.

"Several of the Monologues exalt sexual pleasure as an end in itself, severed from twin goods of love and life," she said.

She pointed to the monologue entitled "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could," which detailed the positive experience of a teenager's seduction by an older woman.

"Sexual seduction of a minor is portrayed positively as an act of salvation," she said. "You can't have it both ways."

Collett spoke on the sociological significance of the play.

"I was shocked with some of the language and topics of the play but I also realized that that was exactly the point," she said.

While many condemned this technique of shock, Collett said it was an effective way to capture attention and make a point.

"[This exhibits the] power of language," she said. "To many of us, the word vagina evokes disgust and shame."

According to Collett, the play makes an effort to overcome the negative connotations surrounding the word 'vagina' by saying it and shouting it.

Nordstrom highlighted her experiences working in rape camps in Africa and Eastern Europe as a testament to the truth and importance of the "Monologues," because it can give a voice to the countless women who have been brutally raped.

"I have seen this in Yugoslavia and Africa," she said. "People tell stories about what hurts and what needs healing."

Whether or not someone likes or agrees with the "Monologues" is inconsequential Nordstrom said.

"If you don't like what is being said, say it better," she stated. "But you can't run away from the question."

Nordstrom said the response the Monologues elicited and the full auditorium that came to see the play indicated that "obviously something is being said that is still important and still needs to be said."

Wolbrecht related the Monologues to the second wave of feminism that occurred in the 1960s. She compared it to the tactic of "conscious-raising," a technique of feminists to bring awareness of issues to the surface, to the often-criticized shock tactics used in the "Monologues."

"The idea was that through sharing they could see the degree to which their own lives were shaped, constrained, and dominated by gender," Wolbrecht said.

Wolbrecht said she was moved by the play.

"I forgot how moving it is to see 20-year-olds speak about things no one else is saying," Wolbrecht said. "I was so inspired by this play."

The "Monologues" concludes its run tonight at 7p.m. in DeBartolo 101.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

U.S. reports troop deaths

Soldiers, families mourn as officials up the number of casualties to 4,000

Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. — Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Hake began his Army career in a ceremonial unit, serving as an escort during funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and marching in President Bush's 2001 inauguration parade.

But he wanted to do his part in Iraq. So Hake, of Enid, Okla., transferred in 2004 to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart in southern Georgia, deployed to Iraq in 2005 and returned for a second combat tour late last year.

"This deployment, he told me, 'You couldn't pay me to come home early,'" said Peter Hake, the soldier's father. "He was a squad leader and loved his guys that worked under him. He said they would die for each other, and they did."

Hake, 26, and three Fort Stewart soldiers in his squad died Monday from wounds suffered when a roadside bomb exploded into their Bradley armored vehicle the day before. The Army announced the four deaths Sunday, pushing the military's count of U.S. service members killed in Iraq to 4,000, and released their identities Thursday.

The military's count varies slightly from an independent tally kept by The Associated Press, which on Thursday counted 4,004 service members killed in Iraq.

Also killed in the explosion were Spc. Jose A. Rubio Hernandez, 24, of Mission, Texas; Pfc. Andrew J. Habsieger, 22, of Festus, Mo.; and Pvt. George Delgado, 21, of Palmdale, Calif.

"He wanted to be known for something, and now he is," said Rubio's wife, Jennifer Guerra.

The four men served in the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, which was among the first Army units to charge into Iraq during the March 2003 invasion. The battalion

is part of the 19,000-soldier 3rd Infantry, the first Army division to be tapped for a third tour of duty in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. William Mead served with all four men in the same platoon. He bonded with Hake during their previous deployment to Iraq. The others were serving their first tours.

Mead taught Rubio and Delgado to drive the hulking 17-foot Bradleys after they arrived. The two young soldiers had never driven anything bigger than a car, he said, but soon could navigate the narrowest streets with ease. He described Habsieger as an up-and-coming leader who kept in peak physical condition.

"Four-thousand lives is a tragic loss. But when you're close, the smaller number feels greater," said Mead, 37, of Whitehall, N.Y., who was sent back to Fort Stewart on March 4

because of a knee injury. "Each one of them, they all wanted to be there. Nobody likes it there, but we all kept our word and we went."

Their deaths came at a time of celebration on the Army post southwest of Savannah, where hundreds of troops from the division's 1st Brigade began arriving home this week from a 15-month deployment. The 4/64 Armor, however, was not scheduled to return until early 2009.

Rubio had moved to the U.S. from Mexico with his family at age 4. Edgar Rubio said his younger brother joined the Army in 2006 out

of gratitude for the opportunities his family had in America. Before he was killed, Rubio had filled out his paperwork to apply for U.S. citizenship, but had yet to mail them.

In California's Antelope Valley, staff and students gathered during a lunch break to pray for Delgado at Desert Christian High School, where he earned his diploma in 2004.

Devlin Thomas, the dean of discipline and incoming principal, remembered Delgado for his "infectious, unique sense of humor."

"From day one, that was his personality — to laugh and to joke and to have a good time," Thomas said.

High school friend Alysse Pernula said Delgado he had an adventurous spirit and overall enjoyed Army life.

Despite having been a football star at his Missouri high school, Habsieger had to fight to join the Army in 2007. His mother said the military first rejected her son because he suffered from migraine headaches.

Brenda Habsieger told the St. Louis Post-

Dispatch her son longed to enlist after hearing his grandfather's stories of military service. She said he died two weeks before he was to come home from Iraq on leave.

"He was a big-hearted kid and made everyone around him better," said Joel Critchlow, Habsieger's former football coach. "He led through example."

"Four-thousand lives is a tragic loss. But when you're close, the smaller number feels greater."

William Mead
Staff sergeant

"Each one of them, they all wanted to be there. Nobody likes it there, but we all kept our word and we went."

William Mead
Staff sergeant

Dinner

continued from page 1

When students arrived at the banquet, event organizers asked them to pull a card at random from a bag. Each card contained the name, socioeconomic status and life story of a character whose identity participants would assume for the evening.

Organizers divided students into high, middle and low-income groups, according to the actual statistical divisions of the respective 15 percent, 25 percent and 60 percent of each class.

After the students were seated — the high-income at tables and the low-income barefoot on the floor — Hannon said to illustrate the real-life scenario, the high-income would receive a catered dinner of salad, pasta and cheesecake while the middle-class would receive rice and beans and the lower-class would receive only rice.

The men were asked to serve themselves first, based on the students' assigned identities.

"Some people have the good fortune to change their lives for the better, but for most the circumstances of life are determined by factors outside their control," Boyle said.

ND-8 officer Michael Ellerhorst emphasized the importance of spreading the word about hunger to students and faculty around campus.

"You don't really think about it ... you go to the dining hall and there's more food than you could ever want ... a lot of people don't have access to [food] around the world," he said.

Contact Lindsay Sena at lsena@nd.edu

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NASDAQ 2,280.83 -43.53
NYSE 8,817.17 -64.38
S&P 500 1,325.66 -15.47
NIKKEI (Tokyo) 12,604.58 -102.05
FTSE 100 (London) 5,717.50 +57.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.32	-0.42	132.78
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-2.21	-0.99	43.71
FINANCIAL SEL (XLF)	-1.56	-0.40	25.22
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-7.21	-1.51	19.43

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+1.14	+0.040	3.534
13-WEEK BILL	-1.57	-0.020	1.250
30-YEAR BOND	+1.06	+0.046	4.376
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.30	+0.033	2.576

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.68	107.58
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.20	954.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.90	71.50

Exchange Rates

YEN	99.5700
EURO	0.6338
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0164

IN BRIEF

Wall Street sinks on tech concerns

NEW YORK — Wall Street sank in volatile trading Thursday after the government confirmed that the last quarter of 2007 did indeed suffer a sharp economic slowdown. For the second straight session, the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points.

The technology sector was particularly weak after business software maker Oracle Corp. posted worse-than-expected fiscal third-quarter sales and issued a cautious forecast. Meanwhile, data suggesting that Google Inc.'s revenue from Internet users' clicks could slow also raised worries about tech stocks.

Oracle fell \$1.51, or 7.2 percent, to \$19.43, and Google dropped \$14.11, or 3.1 percent, to \$444.08.

Wiring inspections cancel more flights

DALLAS — American Airlines and Delta Air Lines canceled hundreds more flights Thursday as they continued inspections of wiring bundles on some of their planes.

Although thousands of passengers were inconvenienced over the past two days, analysts downplayed any notion that the cancellations would hurt the airlines financially. They said the costs would pale in comparison to high fuel prices.

Delta expected to cancel about 275 flights, or about 3 percent of its schedule, before returning to normal operations early Friday, said spokeswoman Chris Kelly.

American, the nation's largest airline, canceled 141 flights by mid-afternoon Thursday, or about 6 percent of its estimated 2,300 flights, officials said. The Fort Worth-based airline canceled 318 flights Wednesday.

At American, inspectors from the airline and the Federal Aviation Administration focused on fixing the spacing of wires between cords used to secure bundles of wires in the auxiliary hydraulic systems of its MD-80 aircraft.

"In no way was safety compromised, but the (FAA) directive said 'Do it this way,'" said American spokesman Tim Smith.

CHINA

Stage-managed Tibetan tour goes awry

30 monks force their way to media, claiming China 'is always telling lies'

Associated Press

LHASA, China — The stage-managed tour of Tibet's holiest temple was going according to the government script. Suddenly, 30 young Buddhist monks pushed their way in, slammed the door, and began shouting and crying to the foreign reporters that there is no freedom in the riot-torn region.

"What the government is saying is not true," a monk shouted as a wellspring of grievances poured out, first in Tibetan and then in Chinese after the confused reporters asked them to switch. Finally, government officials abruptly ended the session and told the journalists it was "time to go."

The emotional, 15-minute outburst by the red-robed monks decrying their lack of religious freedom was the only spontaneous moment Thursday in an otherwise tightly controlled government trip to the Tibetan capital for foreign reporters following this month's deadly riots.

On the second day of the tour, officials hewed to the government line — that the most violent anti-Chinese protests in nearly two decades was plotted by the exiled Dalai Lama and his supporters. Officials escorted two dozen reporters to shops, clinics, a school and a jail to interview victims and rioters, many of them already widely interviewed by state media.

Those who tried to break away from the pack were followed by car and on foot, making all but the most fleeting of contact with ordinary Tibetans risky.

Only the monks at the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's holiest site, managed to upend the official stage-managed event.

As reporters were ushered toward the temple's inner shrine by a senior monk and administrator, the 30 young



Chinese paramilitary police patrol Lhasa, the capital of China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Thursday.

monks began shouting to them. The monks said the believers then in the shrine were fake — members of China's ruling Communist Party.

They complained that troops had ringed the monastery and kept it shut with all 117 monks inside since March 10 — the day the protests began — and that the guards were only removed Wednesday, when foreign journalists arrived.

The monks, speaking in Tibetan, claimed government officials were trying to turn Tibetans against them by telling lies. But the monks

didn't elaborate on the alleged lies, according to a translation by Tibetan scholars in the U.S. who listened to an audiotape of the confrontation made by AP Television News.

"They have destroyed the way we are seen by the people," one monk said. "We are like prisoners here," said another.

As the monks blurted out a stream of complaints, one cried: "The government is always telling lies, it's all lies."

"They killed many people. They killed many people," a monk said.

Later, a monk speaking in Chinese said the death toll was far higher than the government was saying. "The cadres and the army killed more than 100 Tibetans. They arrested more than a thousand."

"Tibetans have no freedom," a monk said after some of them switched to Chinese. "We want the Dalai Lama to come back," said another, adding that they were certain they would be detained when the reporters left.

"They want us to curse the Dalai Lama and that is not right," a monk added.

Strikes cause GM parts shortages

Associated Press

DETROIT — The increasingly bitter monthlong strike at auto parts maker American Axle and Manufacturing Holdings Inc. is starting to hit General Motors Corp. where it hurts.

Two GM factories that make cars in Michigan and Ohio soon will be affected by the strike, which already has fully or partially shut down 28 GM plants in the U.S. and Canada due to parts shortages.

GM confirmed Thursday that the strike will force it to idle the Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant after Friday's lone shift, and a local union president in Lordstown, Ohio, said Thursday that his complex will be shut down on April 4.

Previously the strike had affected only plants that assemble or supply parts for slow-selling pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

But GM spokesman Dan Flores said Thursday the Detroit-Hamtramck plant, which makes the Buick Lucerne and Cadillac DTS sedans, is nearing the end of its parts supply from American Axle.

"Employees have been notified that we anticipate we are going to run out of parts sometime late in the shift on Friday, Flores said.

Closing the Lordstown complex, which makes the Chevrolet Cobalt and Pontiac G5 small cars, could hurt GM the most since the cars are selling well due to high gasoline prices.

Through February, the Cobalt, which gets up to 33 miles per gallon of gasoline on the highway, saw sales rise more than 43 percent when compared with the first two months of last year, according to Autodata Corp. G5 sales are up nearly 19 percent.

DTS and Lucerne sales are down nearly 20 percent for the same period.

"Once we go down, it should start affecting the dealers very fast," said Jim Graham, president of UAW Local 1112 at the Lordstown assembly plant near Youngstown.

Graham said GM is running out of a small brake part for the Cobalt and G5 that is made by American Axle. The shutdown likely will affect 3,750 workers at the Lordstown complex and nearby parts suppliers, he said.

"Hopefully they resolve their issues and we get back to work and build cars," Graham said. "We're good at that."

GM workers will get unemployment benefits as well as supplemental pay from the company if the factories are shut down.

Flores wouldn't comment on the status of the Lordstown plant.

Girl dies after not receiving medicine

Associated Press

WESTON, Wis. — Police are investigating an 11-year-old girl's death from an undiagnosed, treatable form of diabetes after her parents chose to pray for her rather than take her to a doctor.

An autopsy showed Madeline Neumann died Sunday of diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition that left too little insulin in her body, Everest Metro Police Chief Dan Vergin said.

She had probably been ill for about a month, suffering symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, excessive thirst, loss of appetite and weakness, the chief said Wednesday, noting that he expects to complete the investigation by Friday and forward the results to the district attorney.

The girl's mother, Leilani Neumann, said that she and her family believe in the Bible and that healing comes from God, but that they do not belong to an organized religion or faith, are not fanatics and have nothing against doctors.

She insisted her youngest child, a wiry girl known to wear her straight brown hair in a ponytail, was in good health until recently.

"We just noticed a tiredness within the past two weeks," she said Wednesday. "And then just the day before and that day (she died), it suddenly just went to a more serious situation. We stayed fast in prayer then. We believed that she would recover. We saw signs that to us, it looked like she was recovering."

Her daughter — who hadn't seen a doctor since she got some shots as a 3-year-old, according to Vergin — had no

fever and there was warmth in her body, she said.

The girl's father, Dale Neumann, a former police officer, said he started CPR "as soon as the breath of life left" his daughter's body.

Family members elsewhere called authorities to seek help for the girl.

"My sister-in-law, she's very religious, she believes in faith instead of doctors ...," the girl's aunt told a sheriff's dispatcher Sunday afternoon in a call from California. "And she called my mother-in-law today ... and she explained to us that she believes her daughter's in a coma now and she's relying on faith."

The dispatcher got more information from the caller and asked whether an ambulance should be sent.

"Please," the woman replied. "I mean, she's refusing. She's going to fight it. ..."

We've been trying to get her to take her to the hospital for a week, a few days now."

The aunt called back with more information on the family's location, emergency

logs show. Family friends also made a 911 call from the home. Police and paramedics arrived within minutes and immediately called for an ambulance that took her to a hospital.

But less than an hour after authorities reached the home, Madeline — a bright student who left public school for home schooling this semester — was declared dead.

She is survived by her parents and three older siblings.

"We are remaining strong for our children," Leilani Neumann said. "Only our faith in God is giving us strength at this time."

"We are remaining strong for our children. Only our faith in God is giving us strength at this time."

Leilani Neumann
mother of Madeline Neumann

Ex-officials criticize Guantanamo

Former secretaries of state say next administration should close base

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Five former U.S. secretaries of state on Thursday urged the next presidential administration to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp and open a dialogue with Iran.

The former chiefs of American diplomacy, who served in Democratic and Republican administrations, reached a consensus on the two issues at a conference in Athens aimed at giving the next president some bipartisan foreign policy advice. Each of them said shuttering the prison camp in Cuba would bolster America's image abroad.

"It says to the world: 'We are now going back to our traditional respective forms of dealing with people who potentially committed crimes,'" said Colin Powell, who served as President Bush's first secretary of state.

Powell was joined by Henry Kissinger, James Baker III, Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright, who sat in a round-table discussion sponsored by the University of Georgia at a sold-out conference center in downtown Athens.

Kissinger called Guantanamo a "blot on us" and agreed it should be closed, but wondered aloud about the consequences of a closure.

Baker, a lawyer who served in President George H.W. Bush's Cabinet, said he has struggled with its legal implications.

"It gives us a very, very bad name, not just internationally," he said. "I have a great deal of

difficulty understanding how we can hold someone, pick someone up, particularly someone who might be an American citizen — even if they were caught somewhere abroad, acting against American interests — and hold them without ever giving them an opportunity to appear before a magistrate."

The former secretaries of state also urged that the U.S. open a line of dialogue with Iran, each saying it is important to maintain contact with adversaries and allies alike.

Albright stressed the importance of finding "common ground" and Christopher urged diplomats to explore opening contact with other "vectors of power," such as clerics and former political leaders. Albright and Christopher served under President Clinton.

Baker suggested the dialogue could center on a common dilemma, saying a "dysfunctional Iraq, a chaotic Iraq, is not something that's in the interest to Iran. There's every incentive on their part to help us, the same way they did in Afghanistan."

Kissinger, who served the Nixon and Ford administrations, urged an open — if delicate — line of communication with Iran.

"One has to talk with adversaries," said Kissinger, who served the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Powell compared the potential talks to difficult visits he made to Syria while he served as America's chief diplomat.

"They are not always pleasant visits," he said. "But you've got to do it."

Kissinger, who laid the groundwork for Nixon's historic 1972 visit to China that opened relations with that nation, had sharp words when the topic veered to America's perception of China.

"We should not look at China as a military adversary," said Kissinger, adding that a military confrontation is unlikely. "We should see where we could cooperate."

Powell said he agrees, arguing that the biggest threat to a peaceful relationship with China would be Taiwan declaring its independence.

"And, frankly we can keep that from happening," said Powell.

Some of the strongest words were reserved for the trade embargo against Cuba.

"The 50-year-old embargo has not worked, not worked to our benefit or their benefit. This is one of those issues that is driven more by politics than foreign policy," said Christopher.

"When policies don't work for 50 years," he said, "It's time to start thinking about something else."

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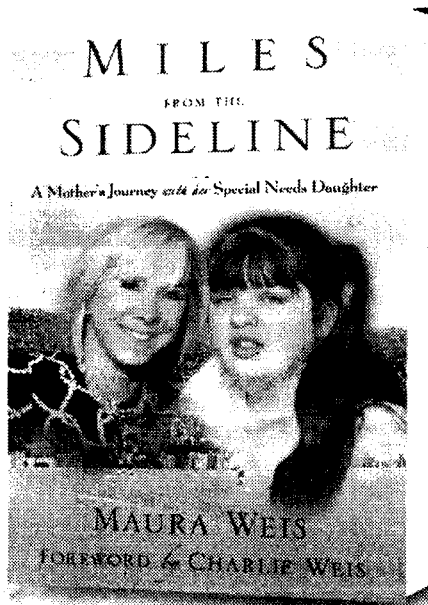
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Arkansas homes devastated by flooding

Nearly half of state affected as weather forecasters call for more storms and residents watch water levels rise

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — Empty grain elevators surrounded by a swollen White River await a harvest that may never come as floodwaters drown wheat already planted this spring.

Last year, Arkansas produced about 28.7 million bushels of wheat. Now, muddy waters have run through fields for days, taking with it expensive fertilizer treatments already applied to the soil.

Some of the wheat, green this time of year and looking like tall grass, has survived, wheat expert Jason Kelley, of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, said Thursday. But grain under water for a week or more likely won't make it.

"You could really tell the plant had been suffering," Kelley said. "They were actually wilted and looked like they were running out of water, but they had no oxygen."

Any real estimate on the damage will have to wait until the floodwaters drain, Kelley said, a process that may take days.

The flooding in Arkansas began with storms March 17 in the Midwest, and federal and state officials have been able to assess the damage only where the water has receded. Thirty-five counties — nearly half the state — have been declared federal disaster areas. One person was killed in the storms in Arkansas, and another remains missing.

Recent heavy rains also flooded parts of other states, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. The weather has been linked to at least 17 deaths in the region.

The National Weather Service issued a flash-flood warning Thursday for the White River downstream from the town Des Arc, northeast of Little Rock, and forecasters said flooding at Clarendon in Monroe County

could be the worst in 25 years.

Residents along the White River National Wildlife Refuge near Clarendon will see water rise a foot a day, said weather service hydrologist Steve Bays.

"One thing that we are trying to do around here is keep people concerned about what's going on but not inflict a panic, and it's a fine line. It certainly bears monitoring by people along the river," Bays said.

With waters still rising under sunny skies, forecasters called for a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms Friday and a quarter-inch of rain or more.

Jaysson Funkhouser, a surface water specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said preliminary figures showed that the White River surge from last week's storms and flooding upstream could, in coming days, reach the 100-year flood stage — meaning it has a 1-in-100 chance of being flooded this badly in any given year.



A sale sign sits in front of a house near Clarendon, Ark. Wednesday. Flood waters have devastated homes in nearly half the state.

Remains of contractor found in Iraq

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Relatives of a U.S. security contractor held hostage in Iraq for more than a year said Thursday that they felt a mixture of sadness and relief when they learned his remains were found.

Though it wasn't the news they prayed for, Paul Johnson-Reuben's loved ones said they know his suffering is over.

"Today, we do get to feel better," said Kathy Reuben, Johnson-Reuben's first wife. "It's over. Paul's in heaven, he's a happy man today."

Officials announced Thursday that they had identified the remains of Johnson-Reuben of Minneapolis and Joshua Munns of Redding, Calif. The men were among six contractors kidnapped more than a year ago in two separate incidents in Iraq.

The remains of two other contractors — Ronald Withrow of Roaring Springs, Texas, and John Roy Young of Kansas City, Mo., were identified earlier this week. FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said

"We've been waiting 16 months to hear something positive."

Kathy Reuben
wife of Paul Johnson-Reuben

Stewart said. "He's not scared. He's not in pain. He's not being mutilated. He's not being tortured."

At the same time, Stewart said, she will continue to press for answers about her son's abduction and the effort to track him down.

"I think because he was ex-military that they could have done a lot better job protecting him or looking for him than they did," she said.

The other contractors still missing are Jonathon Cote, of Getzville, N.Y., and Bert Nussbaumer, of Vienna, Austria.

Cote's family said on its blog Wednesday night that the body still awaiting identification is not Jonathon's. "Please remember to pray for Jon's safety and the loss of the other hostages and their families," the post said.

Reuben, Munns, Young, Cote and Nussbaumer worked in Iraq for Crescent Security Group, a Kuwait-based private security firm. They were kidnapped Nov. 16, 2006, by men in Iraqi police uniforms who ambushed a convoy they were escorting.

Months later, the U.S. military reportedly stripped Crescent Security of its license to operate in Iraq over alleged weapons violations.

Withrow was a contractor working for JPI Worldwide. He was abducted on Jan. 5, 2007.

The cases of the missing contractors was back in the news earlier this month when the severed fingers of five of the men — including Johnson-Reuben — were sent to the U.S. military in Iraq. Some relatives initially took that as hopeful news their loved ones were still alive; others did not.

"I had hope up until the last two weeks, when his finger (was) cut off. Then we knew it was going all downhill," said

Johnson-Reuben's 17-year-old daughter, Bree Reuben.

Johnson-Reuben's family has said he had been working in Iraq for about two years. The last time he was seen alive was on a video obtained by The Associated Press in January 2007 — he said he was being treated well.

Bree Reuben and her twin sister, Casey, were among family members who spoke to the media Thursday. Bree brought along her 5-month-old daughter, Ka'Leah — the granddaughter Johnson-Reuben never met.

The sisters said they weren't surprised their dad was working in Iraq because he loved to help people. In addition to providing security, he taught EMT classes. They said they last spoke to him about a week before he was kidnapped.

"He said it was getting really dangerous out there and he was really scared for his life," said Casey Reuben.

Bree said their father liked the work he was doing "up to the point where he started seeing people die in front of him. And he just got scared. He was shaking over the phone. I never heard my dad shake like that."

Johnson-Reuben worked as a St. Louis Park police officer from 1994 to 2003. He was 39 years old when he was kidnapped.

His twin brother, Patrick Reuben, said in a telephone interview that he and Johnson-Reuben had an inexplicable connection and could sometimes sense how the other was doing.

"It's just been really weird over the last month. I felt like something happened," he said.

Patrick Reuben said the last 16 months have been hard, and there have been moments when he felt guilty about enjoying his own life. For now, he said he's trying to focus on the happy times with his brother, whom he followed first into the Marine Corps and then into law enforcement.

California decreases green vehicle count

State analysts criticize decision as negative move in development of low-emission cars

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California air regulators on Thursday slashed the number of battery-powered and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that must be sold in the state, a setback for environmentalists and health advocates.

The decision is expected to affect 12 other states that had adopted California's target for zero-emission vehicles.

The California Air Resources Board voted to lower by 70 percent the number of those vehicles that automakers must sell here

and in the states that intended to follow California's get-tough rules for vehicle emissions.

Instead, the air board said the six largest automakers must sell nearly 60,000 hybrid vehicles while they develop the more advanced technology that will allow mass production of pure zero-emission vehicles.

Board chairwoman Mary Nichols described the move as a major step toward putting cleaner cars on the road. The plug-in hybrids envisioned by the air board have yet to be designed, she said.

"We're introducing a whole new category of vehicles to the public," Nichols said. "I don't think it's a step backwards in the real world."

In essence, the air board took two steps on Thursday: It cut the number of zero-emission vehicles it wants on the road by 2014, while at the same time offering an alternative — the gas-electric

hybrids.

Environmentalists and health advocates criticized the lowering of the zero-emission goal for vehicles. They said the threats posed by global warming, combined with rising gasoline prices, lends urgency to greatly reducing vehicle emissions.

"We are disappointed. We think this proposal doesn't take us on the road to meeting the state's long-term global warming goals," said Spencer Quong, a senior vehicles analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Auto manufacturers said they could not meet the California standard and needed

more time to make affordable hydrogen and battery-powered cars.

"Pushing this technology into the market before they are commercially viable ties up resources that could be better utilized by advancing core

technologies," said Sara Rudy, an emissions regulatory manager at Ford. "It is important at this stage to be nimble."

The other manufacturers that must comply with the rules are General Motors Corp., Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co., Chrysler LLC and Nissan Motor Co.

California adopted its zero-emission vehicle mandate in 1990 as part of an attempt to reduce smog-forming emissions such as nitrogen oxide.

The rule required that 10 percent of new cars sold in the state by the country's six leading auto manufacturers be completely non-polluting by 2003.

"We are disappointed. We think this proposal doesn't take us on the road to meeting the state's long-term global warming goals."

Spencer Quong
Senior vehicle analyst

LIVE from LEGENDS

The 07-08 Season is coming to a close...
we've saved the best for last.

Friday, March 28

Orquestra Caribe - Live Salsa Band
Doors - 9:30pm | Show - 10pm



Orquestra Caribe - Fri. Mar 28 - 10pm



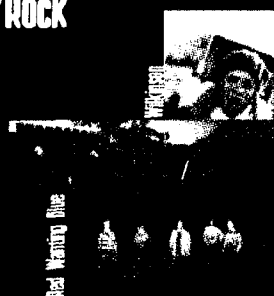
Lucky Boys Confusion - Sat. Mar 29 - 10pm

Saturday, March 29

Lucky Boys Confusion - Chicago Punk/Rock
Doors - 9:30pm | Show - 10pm

Friday, April 4

Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers - American Pop/Rock
with Alexa Wilkinson & Red Wanting Blue
Doors - 8:30PM | Show - 9PM



Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers - Fri. Apr 4 - 9pm



Kyle Dunnigan - Sat. Apr 5 - 10pm

Saturday, April 5

Kyle Dunnigan - Comedian, Reno 911
Doors - 9:30pm | Show - 10pm

Friday, April 11

Shilo - Country Music Sensation
Doors - 9:30pm | Show - 10pm



Shilo - Fri. Apr 11 - 10pm



L'Orchidee d'Hawaii - Fri. Apr 11 - 10pm



Kimya Dawson - Sat. Apr 12 - 9pm

Saturday, April 12

Kimya Dawson - of Juno Soundtrack & Moldy Peaches
with Angelo Spencer & L'Orchidee d'Hawaii
Doors - 8:30pm | Show - 9:00pm

Friday, April 18

Todd Barry - Comedian, Comedy Central
Doors - 9:30pm | Show - 10pm



Todd Barry - Fri. Apr 18 - 10pm



Portugal the Man - Fri. Apr 18 - 10pm



Minus the Bear - Sat. Apr 19 - 9pm

Saturday, April 19

Minus the Bear - Seattle Indie/Rock/Electronica
with Portugal the Man & The Big Sleep
Doors - 8:30pm | Show - 9:00pm

Friday, April 25

The Starting Line - Final Show of The Year
Doors - 9:00pm | Show - 10pm



The Starting Line - Fri. Apr 25 - 10pm

Saturday, April 26

Notre Dame Battle of the Bands - details online

Sat. Apr 26 - 9pm

TSA disallows body piercing

Woman asked to remove nipple ring before boarding airplane

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Texas woman who said she was forced to remove a nipple ring with pliers in order to board an airplane called Thursday for an apology by federal security agents and a civil rights investigation.

"I wouldn't wish this experience upon anyone," Mandi Hamlin said at a news conference. "My experience with TSA was a nightmare I had to endure. No one deserves to be treated this way."

Hamlin, 37, said she was trying to board a flight from Lubbock to Dallas on Feb. 24 when she was scanned by a Transportation Security Administration agent after passing through a larger metal detector without problems.

The female TSA agent used a handheld detector that beeped when it passed in front of Hamlin's chest, the Dallas-area resident said.

Hamlin said she told the woman she was wearing nipple piercings. The women then called over her male colleagues, one of whom said she would have to remove the jewelry, Hamlin said.

Hamlin said she could not remove them and asked whether she could instead display her pierced breasts in private to the female agent. But several other

male officers told her she could not board her flight until the jewelry was out, she said.

She was taken behind a curtain and managed to remove one bar-shaped piercing but had trouble with the second, a ring.

"Still crying, she informed the TSA officer that she could not remove it without the help of pliers, and the officer gave a pair to her," said Hamlin's attorney, Gloria Allred, reading from a letter she sent Thursday to the director of the TSA's Office of Civil Rights and Liberties.

Hamlin said she heard male TSA agents snickering as she took out the ring. She was scanned again and was allowed to board even though she still was wearing a belly button ring.

"After nipple rings are inserted, the skin can often heal around the piercing, and the rings can be extremely difficult and painful to remove," Allred said in the letter.

Hamlin filed a complaint, but the TSA's customer service manager at the Lubbock airport concluded the screening was handled properly, Allred said.

Allred said she might consider legal action if the TSA does not apologize.

On its Web site, the TSA

warns that passengers "may be additionally screened because of hidden items such as body piercings, which alarmed the metal detector."

"If you are selected for additional screening, you may ask to remove your body piercing in private as an alternative to a pat-down search," the site says.

Hamlin would have accepted a "pat-down" had it been offered, Allred said.

Hamlin was publicly humiliated and has "undergone an enormous amount of physical pain to have the nipple rings reinserted" because of scar tissue, Allred said.

"The conduct of TSA was cruel and unnecessary," Allred wrote. "The last time that I checked a nipple was not a dangerous weapon."

TSA spokesman Dwayne Baird said he was unaware of the incident. There is no specific TSA policy on dealing with body piercings, he said, "as long as it doesn't sound the alarms."

If an alarm does sound, "until that is resolved, we're not going to let them go through the checkpoint, no matter what they're wearing or where they're wearing it."

People routinely pass through security wearing wedding rings without problems, and it might take a larger bit of metal to trigger an alarm, Baird said.

Shakespeare scholar to speak at DeBartolo

Special to the Observer

Shakespeare scholar Stanley Wells will explore issues of sexuality in the age of the Bard in a lecture March 31 (Monday) at 5 p.m. in the Philbin Studio Theatre of the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.



Wells

Sponsored by the Deborah J. Loughrey Endowment for Excellence in Shakespeare Studies and Shakespeare at Notre Dame, the event is free and open to the public. Tickets are required and may be reserved by calling the center's box office at 574-631-2800.

Titled "Sex and Literature in Shakespeare's Time," Wells' talk will discuss sexual behavior and attitudes toward sexuality in Stratford and London, with emphasis on theater and the court, in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, and examine some of the ways Shakespeare and his contemporaries made use of sexual subject matter. The discussion will be candid and

the event is not intended for young or sensitive audiences.

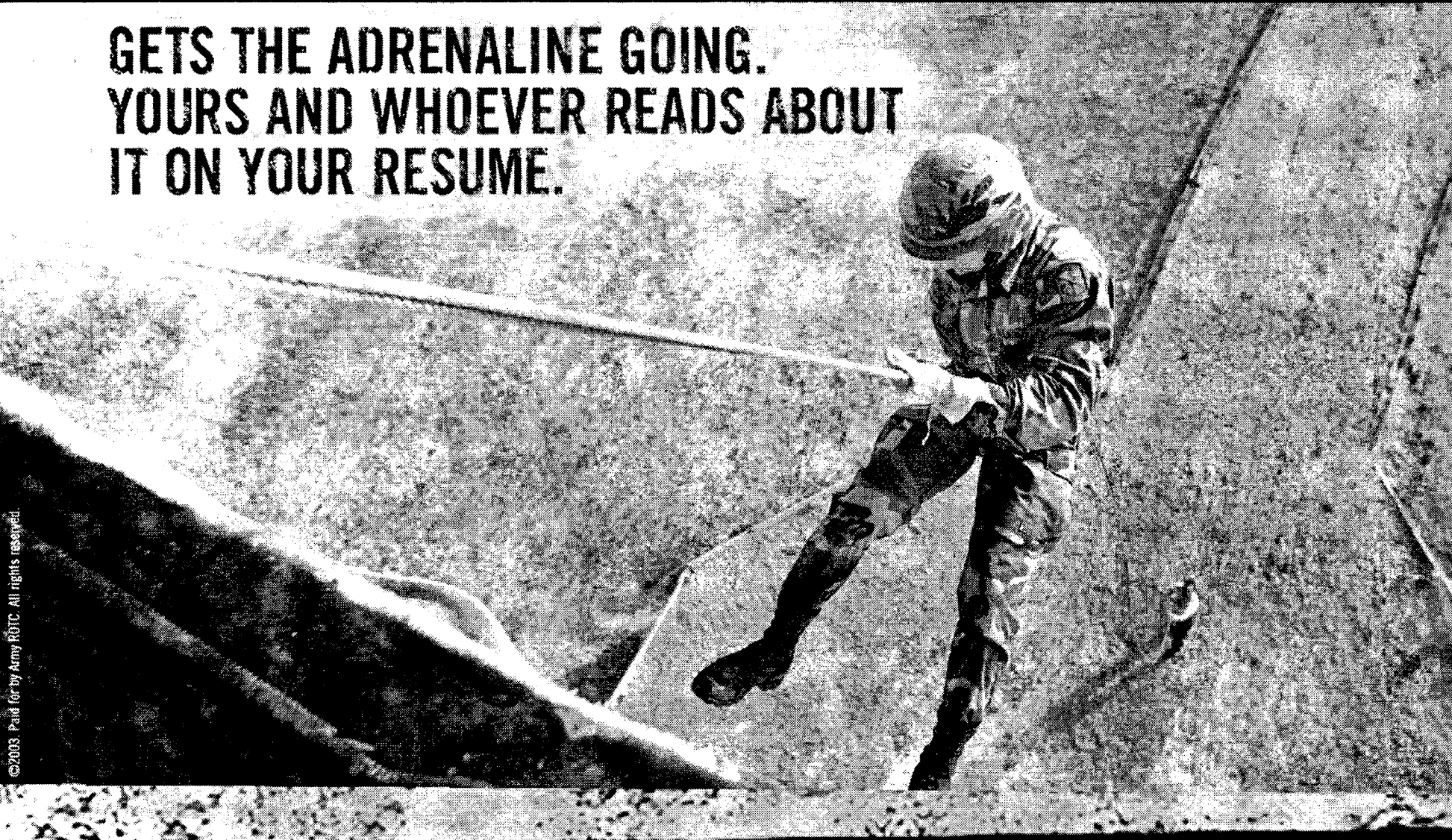
Following Wells' lecture, guest artist Eunice Roberts will present a performance of "...one, two, three..." a one-woman show she developed based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Roberts is an associate director of Actors From The London Stage, an international touring theater troupe based at Notre Dame.

A prolific writer and editor, Wells has served since 1978 as the general editor of "The Complete Oxford Shakespeare." He also has served as co-editor of "The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies" and co-author of "William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion." His books include "Literature and Drama," "Royal Shakespeare: Studies of Four Major Productions at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre," "Looking for Sex in Shakespeare," and "Is it True What they Say About Shakespeare?"

Wells serves as chairman of the Trustees of Shakespeare's Birthplace and is emeritus professor of Shakespeare studies at the University of Birmingham and honorary emeritus governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, March 28, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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Jenkins balances 'Monologues,' Catholicism

In 2006, University President Fr. John Jenkins outlined his criteria that must be met for "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus. Academic freedom, he said, must be maintained regardless of how the material meshes with teachings of the Catholic Church. Allowing the play to be performed on campus is not the same as endorsing the content of the play. Jenkins, as the leader of a Catholic university, walked a fine line between the "Catholic" and "university" characteristics of Notre Dame and found a delicate balance between the two.

In a replay of two years ago, amid much debate on and off campus, Jenkins said the "Monologues" could be performed on campus as long as the performances had an academic panel to discuss the play and its relation to Catholic teaching afterwards.

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy voiced his opposition to the play and Notre Dame's allowance of the play on campus while alumni and concerned Catholics also protested the play. D'Arcy has been the most prominent critic of Jenkins' decision and has issued multiple statements condemning the "Monologues" and their performance on campus. The play, he said, portrays ideals, such as homosexuality, extramarital sex and sexual relations between adults and children that contradict Church teaching. By allowing the performance, he said Jenkins tacitly endorsed it, as well as the values contained in it.

Jenkins said allowing the play on campus is equivalent to discussing a philosopher or a writer whose views do not align with the Catholic Church. D'Arcy said watching a play is not the same as discussing it in a classroom setting because people are not required to participate in discussion of the play and its relation to Catholic teaching as they would be in a classroom.

D'Arcy's criticism is legitimate and well-articulated, but it misses the mark. The entire University is a classroom meant to enrich all areas of students' lives and stimulate intellectual thought both inside and outside an actual classroom. Students at Notre Dame are smart enough to realize that allowing the "Monologues" on campus does not mean the University endorses its content and realize its allowance on campus is meant to inspire dialogue and debate.

Jenkins did not waiver in his decision to allow the "Monologues" to be performed on campus, which is a positive thing for the University. Were he to cave to external pressure, he would confuse people as to the direction in which he was leading Notre Dame. He would still receive criticism, but it would instead come from his faculty and student body, many of whom believe in promoting academic freedom. He was going to catch flak no matter what decision he made; and by allowing the play this year, he reaffirmed the University's commitment to academic freedom that will enable it to remain among the nation's elite universities.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Observing Earth hour

Students of Notre Dame,

This Saturday, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., is Earth Hour, an event created to raise awareness about energy usage and conservation and encourage people to reduce energy waste. Cities around the world will be participating (including world landmarks such as the Sears Tower in Chicago, Brighton Pier in England, Niagara Falls, the Sydney Opera House, the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz in San Francisco, among others) by turning off the lights for a one-hour long period.

Earth Hour is the highlight of a major campaign to encourage businesses, communities and individuals to take simple steps that will collectively make a difference — from businesses turning off their lights when offices are empty, to households turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby. It is important that the Notre Dame community join in this effort. We have asked that all rectors and rectresses switch off their dorm's hall lights. However, it is more important that the students do their part by turning off their room lights, TVs, computers, etc. This Earth Hour is intended to show that if each of us does our own little part, collectively, we will make a huge impact.

This is not a political movement. This is a simple effort to reduce frivolous waste. So please join the millions of people around the world this Saturday and turn off your lights/electronic devices ... I'm sure you'll find that patty-cake (or whatever you do on Saturday evenings) can be just as fun in the dark, if not more so.

Thank you for your support.

Mark McGuire
sophomore
Keough Hall
Lorna Bath
junior
Pangborn Hall
March 27

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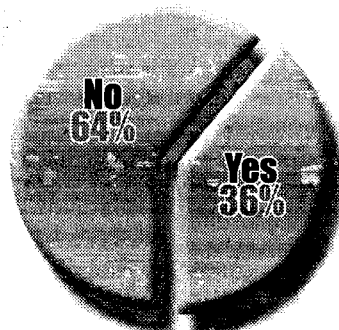
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E-mail Kara at
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Observer Poll

Are you in favor of The Vagina Monologues?

	Votes	Percentage
No	199	64%
Yes	114	36%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"All great truths begin
as blasphemies."*

George Bernard Shaw
Irish dramatist

Democratic dream team still viable

To narrate the tale of the remaining two Democratic presidential candidates, modify the famous Charles Dickens opening phrase in "A Tale of Two Cities" to describe the current state of the race.

"It is the best of times, it is the worst of times, the election of wisdom and the election of foolishness, it is the epoch of belief as well as that of incredulity, it is both the season of Light along with the season of Darkness, it is the spring of hope following the winter of despair. We have everything before us, but we may gain nothing. We were all going direct to heaven while campaigning in Iowa — we now seem to be going direct the other way."

That passage written nearly 150 years ago tells the story of Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton, similar looking men who are, however, very different in their personalities. Their particular doppelganger (a character who physically looks like another but with differing interests, beliefs, values, personalities, etc.) is that they both fall deeply in love with the same woman. Darnay is a romantic



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

French aristocrat while Carton is a cynical English barrister. In the end, Darnay marries the woman but is eventually convicted as an aristocrat and sentenced to be guillotined. Ultimately Carton visits Darnay in his prison cell, drugs him, swaps clothing and in an act of self-sacrifice is executed in place of Darnay.

Ironically, this tale could have been written as a metaphor to describe our modern-day campaigns of Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. It is indeed the best and worst of times for them as well as the Democratic Party. The volleys and returns about Clinton's inaccurate account of her 1996 visit to Bosnia and Obama's tepid distancing of himself from Reverend Wright's inflammatory comments are natural elements of political campaigns. Yet both sides forget that truth squads find each side lacking every day.

For example, Clinton suggests that delegates should act independently while Obama calls for delegates to follow voting results. Yet when New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson chooses Obama despite his state voting for Clinton, Obama keeps him in silence while Clinton supporter James Carville calls him a Judas. Furthermore, it is disingenuous for Obama to decry the campaign banter as distractions which he claims take away from the debate about war

when in media interviews his own campaign manager continually accuses Clinton of saying anything to get elected — a famous 2000 tactic that Karl Rove used against Vice President Al Gore. Yet, despite complaints from both sides, campaigns are about making points and counterpoints.

This week's NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll found that Democrats are evenly split in support of both candidates at 45 percent. Both equally raised their negative ratings by 5 percent. Clinton's positive rating lost 8 points while 55 percent of Americans are disturbed about Obama's pastor, Reverend Wright. Interestingly, both Democrats poll at 44 percent against Republican John McCain, although McCain gains 4 points against Clinton. Regrettably, a fifth of both Clinton and Obama supporters say that they are open to voting for McCain. Moreover, this week's Gallop poll found that 28 percent of Clinton and 19 percent of Obama supporters could support McCain.

Distressing as the political pundits may lament while responding to current polls, the Democratic Party and both candidates can unite for the fall election. But it will demand real courage from both candidates by joining as the dream team. Rather than the Obama camp taking offense when Clinton suggested that they

could run together, Obama should have seen it as a signal from Clinton that she would accept the vice presidency. With the odds favoring Obama as the nominee, he gambles that much of Clinton's supporters would actually vote against him if he does not ask Clinton to join the ticket. In the past, other candidates soothed more rancorous feelings with a unity ticket.

Despite the delegate count, both Democrats have come so far in so many ways, and yet ironically their support remains evenly split. They must be as the Dickens characters and become a dream team to assure victory. To paraphrase the Dickens closing espousing Carton's thoughts before he faced the guillotine, "It is a far, far better thing that they must do, than they have ever done; it is a far, far better ticket that they go to than they (or we) have ever known."

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column usually appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Monologues' debate continues

A call for respect

After seeing the opening night of the 'Vagina Monologues,' we were appalled. However, we were appalled not at the content of the play, but at the actions of certain members of the Notre Dame community. As we are all aware, there has been much controversy surrounding the staging of the Monologues at our Catholic university. Many people have been passing out flyers and writing letters in protest, however during the actual show, protesters scattered all over the auditorium promptly interrupted the show by getting up and leaving after the first monologue.

We understand that many people hold different opinions surrounding this issue, yet disrespectful expressions of these varying attitudes should not be tolerated. All those involved in the Monologues have put in countless hours and effort towards this production. At the very least, your peers deserve your respect for all the time and energy they have put forth, even if you disagree with their message.

Being at Notre Dame has taught many of us valuable life lessons. One that we think is most important and should not be missed is that of being open-minded and respectful to all. As part of this esteemed university, we are constantly presented with the challenge of understanding complicated issues, and taking stances of our own accord entwined with personal thoughts, values, and beliefs. The mission of the University is to foster intellectual development through challenges to ourselves and one other. Students have the responsibility to actively engage in discussions about controversial issues, including social taboos, particularly in an academic setting.

The point of going to college is not to be constantly bombarded with one-sided ideologies that are to be accepted without question. Rather, our minds should be stimulated with new and thought-provoking subject matters. We then, as individuals, have been privileged with the intelligence to walk away from these experiences with our own opinions on any given topic. But to form your own opinion should always be done respectfully, especially when your peers are presenting the issue.

After all, respect is something even Bishop D'Arcy advocates.

Judy Conway
sophomore
Breen Phillips Hall
Jennie Hiatt
sophomore
McGlinn Hall
March 26

Allowance implies compliance

I have seen the Vagina Monologues. Ever since I heard this play was going to be on the Notre Dame campus I have been doing research. I have read quotes, critiques, praises and parts of the play. I have talked to Holy Cross priests, Bishop D'Arcy himself, Fr. Jenkins, professors, alumni, my parents and my roommate. Yesterday my roommate and I went to the Vagina Monologues together. I didn't want to go. (I disagree with them being shown at a Catholic University, and have no desire whatsoever to see them.) But I went. I decided that I should go and see for myself. I am glad I went, for now I am absolutely certain they have no place on this campus.

First let me say this is not an attack on the people who worked hard to put on this production, including two of my friends. This is simply pointing out what the Vagina Monologues are.

The Vagina Monologues, excluding the "Introduction" and brief "Spotlight 2008," is composed of 15 monologues. Only three are actually about violence against woman, and the word vagina is only mentioned once. "Say It," "The Memory of Her Face" and "My Vagina was My Village," all touched my heart. They invoked empathy in me. However, including them with the other so called "humorous" monologues, made them just as much of a joke. The other monologues, especially "Because He Liked to Look at It," reduces women to their vaginas.

Don't believe me? Read the script. The actress in this monologue speaks of a man's repeated request to "see her", and does not actually "see her" until he sees her vagina. Notre Dame, a Catholic university, has no business allowing this on campus.

Two of the monologues were about lesbian sexuality. In "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," the actress speaks about, even jokes about, her positive

experience of being raped by an older woman. Imagine if a Catholic priest wrote about molesting a young boy, and then Notre Dame allowed him on campus to speak about his enjoyment in this. This would never be allowed, and rightly so.

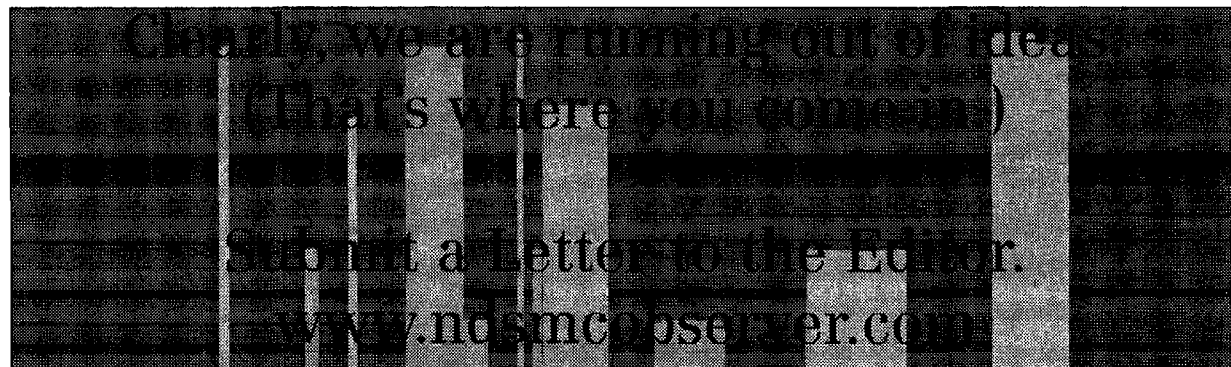
The other monologue was about a lesbian prostitute who brags and jokes about dominating woman. Is this promoting awareness of violence against women?

I have gone to see the Vagina Monologues to find out the truth. The truth is that they have nothing to do with academic freedom. Out of the approximately 350 people that went, less than 50 stayed for the discussion. The Vagina Monologues are a play, a form of grotesque entertainment, they scream of using yourself and others for sexual pleasure.

Notre Dame performs the Vagina Monologues three times every year. No other play comes to Notre Dame every year. Why are we allowing this? We need to stand up as a community to fight this. Too many are silent on the issue, not really caring either way. Notre Dame community, I beg you to no longer allow this on campus. It is hurting our community.

Instead, Notre Dame should do more to promote awareness of sexual violence against women. Father Jenkins, you are a holy and gentle man. Please know that whoever told you this play was an academic event, whoever said it was to promote awareness of violence against women, lied to your face. Go see the play and you will know what I mean, that is if you can sit through it.

Kelly Mason
freshman
Lyons Hall
March 27



PENELOPE is Charming, Modern

By JESS SHAFFER
Scene Writer

Lose the prince charming of yore, forget the control top pantyhose, and ignore the Spice Girls' suggestion of "strength and courage in a wonder bra." While all of these may have been good options for ego boosting and self-image enhancers, Christina Ricci's new film offers a novel take on the modern girl's sense of fulfillment. Self-empowerment beyond body image is in, thanks to "Penelope."

For centuries, little girls, young females and grown women alike have looked to film for fairytale romance and ideal beauty. "Penelope" flies in the face of this delusion of perfection, giving this fairytale's damsel a very real problem. Okay, maybe not so real.

Penelope has the standard troubles of many girls: poor body image, a nagging mother and boys. Her dilemma over her body image extends past the typical discomfort over chubby thighs or a flat chest. The victim of a family curse, Penelope has the face of a pig. And no, this isn't some drunken insult uttered by a sexually frustrated frat boy. The phrase "pig face" is a quite literal description.

A pig-nose and floppy ears are definitely not ideal mating material. But the only way to break the curse is to marry Penelope off to an aristocratic young man. Her

"Penelope" combines supernatural elements of a fairytale with modern, relatable problems. The characters, though in less than normal circumstances, speak to something that every ordinary person can understand and the healthy body image message makes the film fulfilling for modern girls and women.

parents, however, decide to lock her up away from public ridicule. Meanwhile her mother is obsessed with breaking the curse, and pursues the altar with a vengeance. Of course, this quest is marked by every mother's standby of overbearing nagging.

And finally, Penelope's "boy problems." Nearly all of her suitors run away at first sight of her, so a second date is typically out of question. Eventually Penelope does find the right guy (James McAvoy), and the standard fare of heartache and redemption ensue. The angst leads Penelope to flee from her isolation and allows her to discover the world and more importantly, herself.

"Penelope" combines supernatural elements of a fairytale with modern, relatable problems. The characters, though in less than normal circumstances, speak to something that every ordinary person can understand and the

healthy body image message makes the film fulfilling for modern girls and women. The talented cast deserves credit for making the film successful. Christina Ricci uses the perfect amount of anguish without an excess of whininess. She evokes empathy from the audience and relates to them in a highly tangible way. Her mother, played by Catherine O'Hara, seems to recall every mother's inability to impose her will on her daughter. She embodies overbearing parenthood with a comic talent that rails on the audience's nerves and makes them laugh.

Additionally, James McAvoy artfully morphs "Prince charming" into a character that is realistic, flawed and soulful. Unlike the typical love interest, McAvoy is weighed by his own demons. He is incapable of rescuing himself, much less the damsel in distress. Hence his twist of fairytale love is offbeat, yet palpably appealing. Through his chemistry with Ricci, indie meets fairytale.

The detail and craft put into every character makes the story rich and diverse. Even the supporting cast, which includes Reese Witherspoon, brings unique offerings that help reinvent an old story of romance and self-discovery. "Penelope" finally gets the modern fairytale right. Its lovable characters and noble message are truly memorable and it promises to make audiences fall in love — with themselves

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu

Penelope Stone Village Pictures

Director: Mark Palansky

Written by: Leslie Caveny

Starring: Christina Ricci, James McAvoy, Catherine O'Hara, Reese Witherspoon



'Love Is Hell'

Perfect for Gloomy Weather

By JAMES COSTA
Scene Writer

Its springtime and snow is falling in South Bend. Thankfully, Ryan Adams has provided a moody accompaniment to the melancholy spaces outside our windows. His album "Love is Hell" carefully exposes the most dangerously emotive portions of the human heart and mind. Conceived in moments of heartbreak and questioning of the authenticity of love, the record explores a vast range of experiences and ideas, eventually realizing love is indeed hell.

Opening with the track "Political Scientist," Adams sings of a dysfunctional couple, both political scientists. Raddled by the passage of years and a hollow sense of love for each other, they exist within a world of uneasiness and bad memories. Adams sings, "Her husband's divorced but he treats her that way of course / Because he needs her just like he needs medicine / She forgets to write him anyway / What's red and white and nearly over / Political scientist." While the lyrics are somewhat unclear and vague, they highlight the confusion between the husband and wife, emotions the couple clearly cannot understand.

It's a record for the those late night hours staring through the window into the blackness, just as it's a record for those late March days when you simply cannot believe that the daylight is still gray and the snow is still falling in South Bend.

A key element of the record is the intermixing of songs inspired by the stories and experiences of others amidst the hyper-personal, depressing songs inspired by Adams' own intimate experiences. One of the most delicate tracks on the record is the near-heartbreaking "Please Do Not Let Me Go." Without a doubt written at the end of a relationship, Adams sings "True love ain't that hard to find / Not that you will ever know / Would you leave for awhile? / Please do not let me go." It's simple, cutting and deeply poignant; one of the true gems on the record.

One track likely inspired by the experiences of another, is "Shadowlands." A stirring portrait of a decaying family thrust into the torments of separation, drug addiction and broken love, the song subtly renders their saddest moments into the structure of the song with care and sympathy. In a tone that seems more rooted in lamentation than song, Adams sings "She's angry like a salesman / Who just couldn't make a sale / Threw the wedding ring in the sewer / And damned them all to hell / While the roaches climb the walls / From the hotel where he calls / Most people never find a love." Not straying from the obvious thesis of the album, Adams gives voice to a moment and a history understood by most everyone, yet rarely acknowledged with such honesty of tragic perspective.

While Adams rarely features cover songs on his records, "Love is Hell" features a brilliant cover of the Oasis hit "Wonderwall." With a bluesy melody, the song seems fit to be heard in the back of a late night piano bar.

Practically every song on the record is stellar. Yet it is not a record for sunny days and fresh romance.

It's a record for the those late night hours staring through the window into the blackness, just as it's a record for those late March days when you simply cannot believe that the daylight is still gray and the snow is still falling in South Bend.

Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu

Love is Hell
Ryan Adams

Label: Lost Highway

Recommended Tracks: "Political Scientist," "Please Do Not Let Me Go" and "Shadowlands"



NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tar Heels nab second-straight Elite 8 appearance

Duncan scores 26 while clutch three point shooting from Raymond leads Xavier to victory and first quarterfinals berth

Associated Press

Roy Williams has never stopped pushing his North Carolina team to play better defense, not even as it piled up lopsided wins and crowd-pleasing offensive displays that few teams can match.

The Tar Heels gave their Hall of Fame coach what he's been asking for in the East Regional semifinal against Washington State — and it has them a game away from the Final Four again.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half and the top-seeded Tar Heels held Washington State to 32-percent shooting in a 68-47 victory Thursday night, sending North Carolina back to the NCAA tournament's round of eight for the second straight season.

Danny Green had 15 points to help the Tar Heels (35-2) set a school record for victories while continuing their dominant tournament run. The No. 1 overall seed has won its first three NCAA games by 20 or more points for the first time in program history as it chases a record 17th trip to the Final Four.

North Carolina will play the Louisville-Tennessee winner Saturday with a clear home-court advantage, playing in an

arena located about two hours from its Chapel Hill campus.

On this night — facing a team that had completely shut down its first two tournament foes — everything started with a defensive performance that was the school's best in the tournament since before Williams was born.

"We continued to talk about this throughout the year, the fact that we're tired of hearing that North Carolina can't play defense and that's going to be our weak link," junior Marcus Ginyard said. "But tonight, I think you see that this team has the capability of buckling down and being that great defensive team."

There was no room to argue with the Tar Heels' vocal leader. Fourth-seeded Washington State (26-9) managed just 18 field goals for the game while scoring 20 points below its average. The Cougars also went 2-for-16 from 3-point range as the Tar Heels pulled away.

The 47 points were the fewest allowed by the Tar Heels in an NCAA game since 1946.

"Defensively we thought we were really good," Williams said, "but yet let's be honest: they missed some open shots."

North Carolina improved to 24-1 in NCAA games played in its home state and is 7-0 all-time in Charlotte Bobcats Arena. Now they can focus on

erasing the lingering memories from last year's final game: a blown double-digit lead late in the second half of an overtime loss to Georgetown in the regional finals.

"We know what happened. We know that feeling," Hansbrough said. "We don't want to have it again. That's kind of our attitude, and that's the mentality we have."

For the first time in this tournament, the Tar Heels, the nation's second-highest scoring team, didn't crack 100 points. It didn't matter. Nor did it matter that Hansbrough struggled much of the way. Instead, facing a deliberate Washington State team that had held Winthrop and Notre Dame to a combined 81 points in the tournament, the Tar Heels looked determined to prove they could play some tough defense, too.

Washington State missed shot after shot — sometimes open, more often not — while the Tar Heels kept pushing forward with their slowed-but-effective transition attack. The Cougars got little from the perimeter, with Kyle Weaver and Taylor Rochestie scoring a combined 12 points on 4-for-21 shooting.

"It was freezing out there," said Weaver, who had 10 points. "We got a lot of good looks offensively, but we were pretty awful."

Musketeers 79, Mountaineers 76

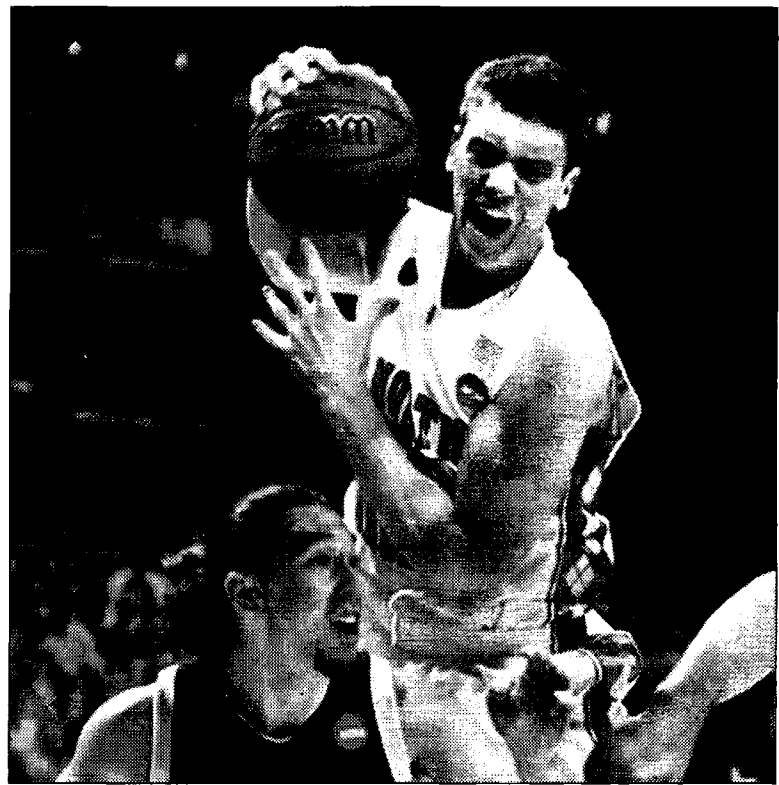
In a span of 48 critical seconds late in overtime, B.J. Raymond made more 3-pointers than the entire West Virginia team did all night.

He went from "non-factor" to nonplussed, calmly knocking down two long-range jumpers that lifted Xavier past coach Bob Huggins' Mountaineers 79-75 Thursday night in the West Region semifinals.

Third-seeded Xavier (30-6) rallied from a six-point deficit in overtime, and will seek its first Final Four appearance when it plays the UCLA-Western Kentucky winner on Saturday.

Raymond, who scored all eight of his points from overtime, hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key to put the Musketeers ahead 75-74 with 1:18 to play. He then shook loose on an inbound play, took a crosscourt bounce pass from Stanley Burrell and made a 3 with the shot clock expiring for a 78-74 lead with 30 seconds left.

"I was kind of a non-factor for



AP
Junior Tar Heels forward Tyler Hansbrough grabs a rebound over WSU senior guard Derrick Low in North Carolina's victory Thursday.

the first 40 minutes," Raymond said. "I knew when I got back in there, I had to make something happen."

The second 3 was the dagger. "It wasn't a great play that I drew up," Xavier coach Sean Miller said. "It was a terrific pass by Stanley Burrell and an amazing shot off the bounce by B.J."

Huggins said his defense clogged up the intended play but "somebody fell asleep" to allow the wide-open 3.

Josh Duncan scored a career-high 26 points despite foul trouble to lead Xavier.

Xavier, which led by 18 early in the game, rallied from a 71-65 deficit in overtime.

Joe Alexander scored 18 and had 10 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Mountaineers (26-11) before fouling out in the overtime.

West Virginia missed four of six free throws in the overtime. Alexander missed one with 14.2 seconds left in regulation that would have given his team a 65-64 lead.

Xavier shot 11-for-19 on 3s while West Virginia was 1-for-11 from long range. The Mountaineers had only one worse performance on 3s this season, going 1-for-22 in a loss to Cincinnati.

"I don't know what we are

shooting on the year," Alexander said, "but it is definitely better than 10 percent. In a close game like that, if we would have shot even half of what we normally shoot, it would have made a big difference."

Going into the game, West Virginia had shot 35 percent from 3-point range.

Duncan was 3-of-4 on 3s. Drew Lavender 3-of-6 and Raymond 2-of-4.

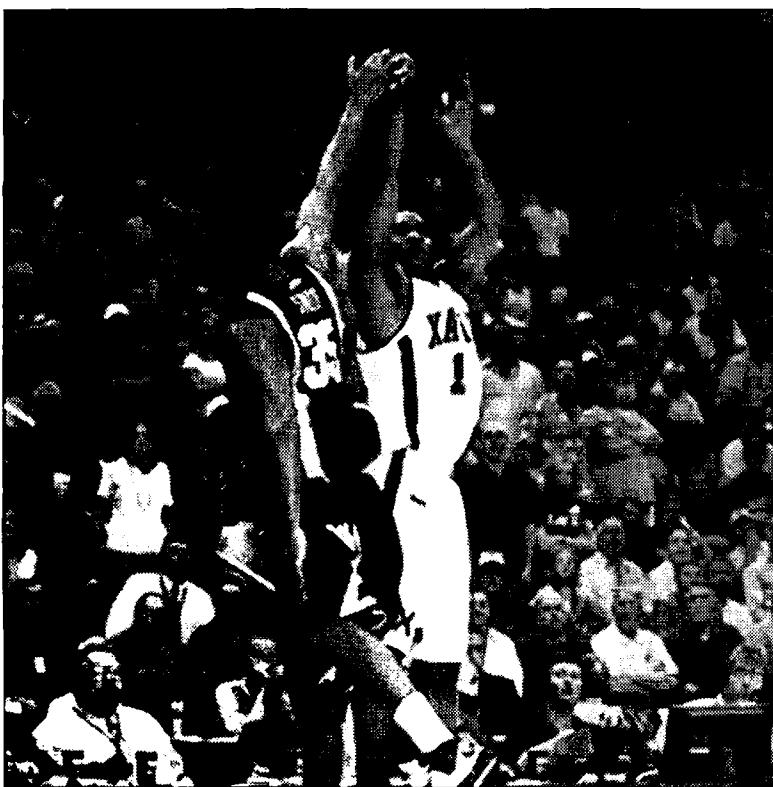
"I shot that shot probably 100,000 times in my life," Raymond said of his late 3s. "It is easy once you've shot it so many times."

Da'Sean Butler added 16 points, 14 in the second half for West Virginia. Butler also fouled out in the overtime.

Xavier has been in a regional final only once, in 2004.

Despite the loss, Huggins has had quite the comeback with the school he played for. Out of work two years ago, he barely missed taking a team to the regional final for the fourth time.

Huggins got fired at Cincinnati — a school he led to the 1992 Final Four — after a drunken driving arrest and sat out a season before surfacing at Kansas State in 2007. He guided that team to the NIT, where it lost in the second round.



AP
Junior Xavier guard B.J. Raymond shoots a three-pointer over WVU's sophomore forward Wellington Smith Thursday.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 28, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NCAA Men's Golf Top 25

rank	team	points	prev
1	Alabama	561	3
2	Georgia	559	1
2	Charlotte	500	2
4	Oklahoma State	496	5
5	UCLA	479	4
6	USC	439	7
7	Stanford	424	6
8	Georgia Tech	395	8
9	Tennessee	378	11
10	Florida	368	9
11	Auburn	357	14
12	Florida State	326	10
13	Duke	325	12
14	Clemson	280	13
15	Michigan State	207	15
16	South Carolina	159	17
17	Wake Forest	137	19
18	Texas Tech	136	18
19	UNLV	122	21
20	Penn State	115	22
21	Chattanooga	97	16
22	East Tennessee St.	96	24
23	North Carolina	82	25
24	Lamar	78	23
25	Indiana	59	20

NCAA Women's Golf Top 25

rank	team	points	prev
1	Duke	714	1
2	UCLA	688	3
3	USC	656	4
4	Arizona State	652	2
5	Florida	616	5
6	Auburn	539	6
7	Arizona	503	7
8	Arkansas	472	9
9	Oklahoma State	446	14
10	Purdue	423	12
11	Georgia	411	8
12	Tennessee	375	10
13	California	359	11
14	Wake Forest	351	18
15	Pepperdine	333	13
16	Alabama	295	16
17	Denver	281	15
18	Kent	248	19
19	Stanford	186	23
20	Vanderbilt	159	17
21	New Mexico	149	19
22	Michigan State	112	24
23	Texas A&M	102	NR
24	NOTRE DAME	93	20
25	Virginia	65	22

MIAA Women's Softball Conference Standings

team	league	overall
Alma	2-0	8-5
Tri-State	0-0	9-1
SAINT MARY'S	0-0	8-2
Hope	0-0	9-4
Albion	0-0	6-4
Calvin	0-0	4-5
Adrian	0-0	5-8
Olivet	0-0	4-10

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Oklahoma State's Andrea Riley, center, and Taylor Hardeman, left, celebrate their second round victory over Florida State in the NCAA Tournament. The Cowgirls went 0-16 in Big XII Conference play two years ago.

OSU out of cellar, into Sweet 16

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla.— Oklahoma State guard Taylor Hardeman has tried to forget about her freshman season. Shaunte Smith isn't much for recalling specifics from that time, either.

It's easy to understand why. Just two years removed from going winless in the Big 12, the Cowgirls are in the NCAA tournament's round of 16 for the first time in 17 seasons.

Hardeman, a junior, does acknowledge Oklahoma State's rise from the depths has made her appreciate this season's success even

more.

"It's a blessing to see where it's come from and where it could even go," Hardeman said. "...Some people don't understand how hard it really is to come from that to this."

Oklahoma State (27-7) faces LSU (29-5) on Saturday in the New Orleans regional semifinals. It's a long way from going 6-22 and 0-16 in the league in 2005-06.

Even the record doesn't adequately depict how overmatched Oklahoma State was. The Cowgirls closed with 17 straight losses, all but three coming by 10 or more points.

The constant drubbings

were enough to test the perpetually positive attitude of Kurt Budke, the coach Oklahoma State hired to return the program to respectability.

"That first year was tough," Budke said Wednesday. "We were going into games with no chance to win. You hoped your young kids played hard and that they didn't get beat by 40."

Smith started 22 games that season for the Cowgirls and now tries to look back for positive lessons to glean from that difficult time.

"There were some bumps in the road, but you don't have any success

without struggle," she said.

"When you win, you get a lot more respect and you get recognized. As a freshman, it was like we didn't even exist. No one really came to our games and no one really acknowledged us. But now that we're winning and doing great things for the university, it's totally changed."

Oklahoma State has some tradition of success in women's basketball. In 19 seasons under coach Dick Halterman, the Cowgirls made seven trips to the NCAA tournament. During the 1990-91 season, Oklahoma State went 27-6 and reached regional semifinals.

IN BRIEF

LSU QB Perrilloux could return to practice Monday

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux returned from suspension and could be allowed to practice with the team by Monday.

Perrilloux, who finished last season as heir apparent for the starting job, must make up six workouts he missed while on team suspension before he can practice, coach Les Miles said Thursday. If Perrilloux finishes those workouts by this weekend, he could get back on the field next week and might play in the Tigers' spring game on April 5.

"Ryan has a chance to play in the game if he does the things he should be doing," Miles said. "He will be allowed to compete fully for the position."

Miles suspended Perrilloux in February, shortly before spring practice began, for unspecified team violations.

Olson to retire from Titans after playing 10 years in NFL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Benji Olson decided to leave college a year early in 1998 because the offensive lineman wasn't sure how long his back would hold up in the NFL.

He announced his retirement Thursday having lasted 10 years with only three interior linemen playing more games than Olson in that stretch.

Not bad for a guy hoping to last maybe five seasons.

"Honestly, I was just shooting to make the team when I got here," he said. "I was just happy these guys took a chance on me, a guy who recently had back surgery."

"There were definitely issues about it. I'm just glad they took a chance on me. I'm glad I was able to deliver and put together a pretty good career," Olson said at a news conference.

Draft hopeful Benedict found dead in home

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Heath Benedict, a two-time Little All-American offensive lineman from Newberry College in South Carolina, was found dead on a couch in his home.

Jacksonville police said no foul play is suspected in the death of the 24-year-old Benedict, a 6-foot-4, 321-pound senior who had high hopes of being selected in the NFL draft next month.

Benedict, who redshirted at Tennessee as a freshman in 2002 before moving on to Newberry, was a native of the Netherlands. He played high school football at the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J.

"He was a big, tough man, but he had a very gentle heart," Newberry president Mick Zais said. "He was a teddy bear."

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Davidson vs. Wisconsin
7:10 p.m., CBS

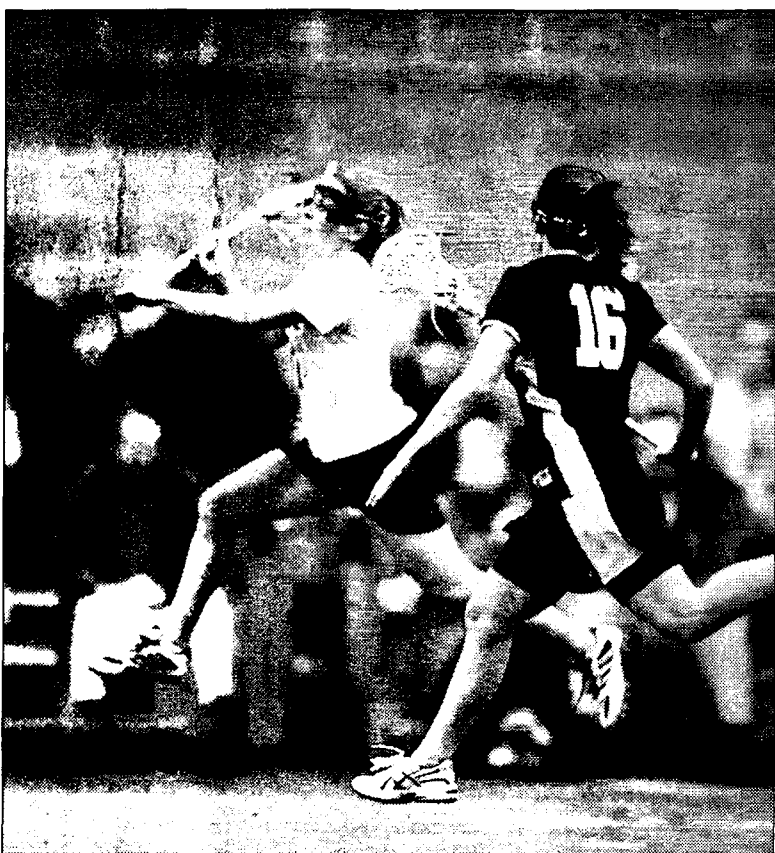
Stanford vs. Texas
7:27 p.m., CBS

Villanova vs. Kansas
9:40 p.m., CBS

Michigan State vs. Memphis
9:57 p.m., CBS

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame to take on winless Huskies



WU YUE/The Observer

Senior captain Caitlin McKinney flies past a Canisius defender in Notre Dame's 22-10 victory on Feb. 15.

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

No. 13 Notre Dame (7-4, 1-1 Big East) looks to keep Connecticut (0-8, 0-2) winless for at least another day.

"The big thing is that it is a Big East game, and any time you play a Big East team it's a battle, it's a game you have to win and can make an impact," senior captain Caitlin McKinney said. "We hope we've learned our lesson not to take teams lightly.... The biggest thing is to keep the game about us and not about them, to come out early and get it done from the beginning."

The Huskies will host the Irish in Storrs, Conn., for tomorrow's noon game looking to shut down Notre Dame's high-powered offensive attack. The Huskies have been blown out in each of their last two games, losing 24-4 at Syracuse and 18-3 at Yale in the last week.

The Irish offense, led by junior Jillian Byers (42 goals, 10 assists) and McKinney (25 goals, 13 assists), will look to capitalize on a reeling Connecticut team.

"We just need to play the way we've played all year — I'm not going into it thinking it's time to rack up goals or anything like that," McKinney said. "It's important that we keep everyone involved in the play, shooting and getting looks because when we play the teams that don't get scored on as much, it's important to have more people shooting."

Though Byers and McKinney have been steady through the team's first 10 games, the Irish have gotten significant contributions recently from freshman Shaylyn Blaney (21 goals, 7 assists), sophomore attack Gina Scioscia (9 goals, 15 assists) and

senior attack Heather Ferguson (11 goals, 10 assists).

"It's humongous," McKinney said of the spread-out scoring. "It really started in California (over spring break) when we had people stepping up, and that was really big. It just makes us a better team. The good teams have a bunch of people assisting and scoring because people have bad days, people get face-guarded."

"The fact that our offensive is diversifying more is definitely a positive thing, and I hope we do even more of it in the future."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

"We just need to play the way we've played all year."

Caitlin McKinney
Senior captain

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish look to make it three straight

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will try to build on its two-game winning streak as they travel to Louisville to take on Bellarmine on Saturday.

The Irish (6-1) enter the game ranked No. 7 in the Nike/Inside Lacrosse Media Poll and fresh off a 13-6 win against Drexel last Saturday, March 25. That win came on the heels of a 19-7 drubbing of Dartmouth March 15. Senior attack Alex Wharton and junior attack Duncan Swezey played significant roles in both wins. Between them, the pair have scored nine goals and made 11 assists in the last two games.

Wharton was named player

of the week of the Great Western Lacrosse League for his six-point effort in the Dartmouth win.

Head coach Kevin Corrigan said Thursday that Wharton and Swezey's collective success is mainly the result of experience.

"The two of them have been playing together ever since [2005]," Corrigan said. "They came in this year and really started clicking. Both of them have been very aggressive but also smart with the ball, and they communicate really well. Playing together for a couple years now has definitely helped them."

Between Wharton, Swezey, and senior midfielder Michael Podgajny, who tied his career high with four assists against Drexel, the Irish look set on

the offensive end of the field. According to Corrigan, though, the team's main goal as it heads to Bellarmine will lie more on the defensive half of play.

"The biggest thing for us is we need to establish ourselves in the way we have in our other games — defensively," Corrigan said. "That takes the pressure off of our offense. We can be a very defensive team when we're diligent and when we communicate. We've started off a number of our games very well and given up very few goals in the first quarter that's a really important thing because it relieves the pressure and allows us to play our game."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles pursue Div. III title

Coach wants team to step up to tough divisional competition

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's continues in its pursuit of a qualifying spot in the NCAA Division III championship as it competes in its second event this spring at the Northern Kentucky Invitational in Perry Park, Kent.

Competing alongside the Belles will be five of the top 10 teams in Div. II as well as several strong Div. III teams including the No. 5 team.

"The competition will be fierce," Belles coach Mark Hamilton said. "Our goal is to finish as the top Division III team in the field."

Katie O'Brien has led the Belles for the last year. The senior captain won the MIAA's most valuable player

award last fall and brought Saint Mary's to a third place finish in the conference.

Freshman Emily Gore also played well this fall garnering second-team all-MIAA honors and is an important factor in bringing the Belles to the championship event this spring.

"I expect both of them to continue to play well and score low this spring," Hamilton said.

The Belles made great strides during the offseason

and Hamilton believes his team has what it takes to propel them to the top of their conference.

"I think we have worked harder than our competition..."

Mark Hamilton
Belles coach

"I think we have worked harder than our competition and have made the necessary improvements to catch and surpass them."

In the first event of the spring, the Belles placed 10th at the St.

Andrews Invitational in Pinehurst, N.C. This weekend's tournament is the second of seven events on the schedule for Saint Mary's this spring.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

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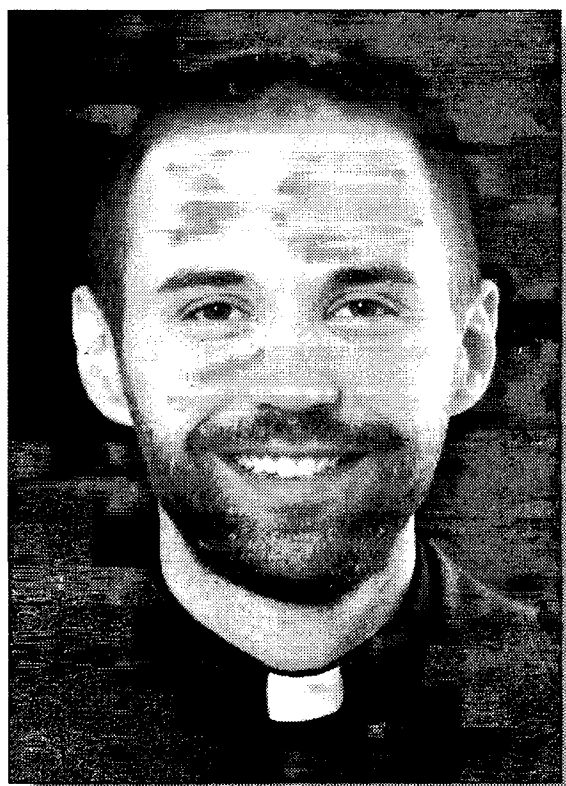
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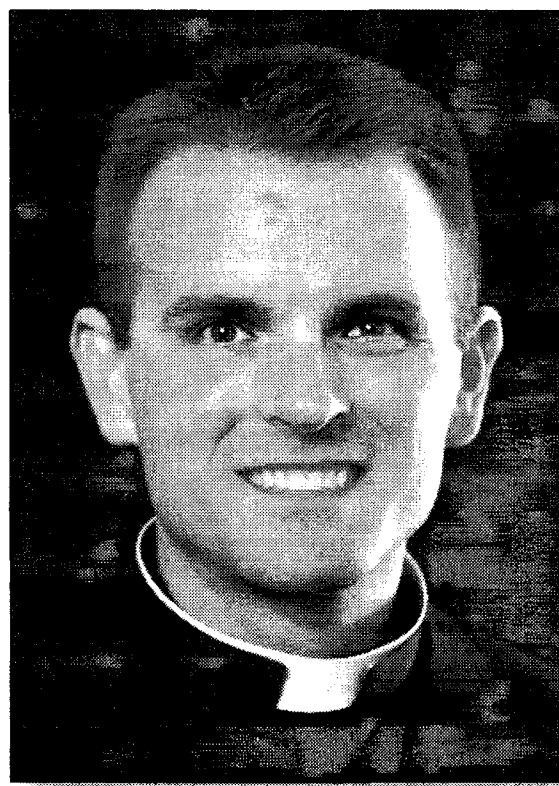


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Rev. Mr. Stephen A. Lacroix, C.S.C.

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Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**Saturday, March 29, 2008
2:00 p.m.
at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart**

*"We heard a summons to give over our lives in
a more explicit way"*
(Constitutions, I.3)

vocation.nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Louisville reaches Elite 8 with victory over UT

Earl Clark nets 17 points in addition to 12 rebounds; Cardinals coach Rick Pitino now 8-0 in Sweet 16 play

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Tennessee's Wayne Chism tried to pick up the loose ball, only to be quickly outnumbered. Louisville's Earl Clark and Preston Knowles both dove to the floor, and the ball deflected off Chism out of bounds.

It was what Rick Pitino loves: down and dirty defense, floor burns and hustle, and it's left the Cardinals' coach a victory away from a sixth trip to the Final Four.

Clark scored 17 points and had 12 rebounds, and Pitino's mix of defenses made life miserable for Tennessee in a 79-60 victory Thursday night that put third-seeded Louisville in the East Regional final.

Pitino, who has won an NCAA title and taken three schools to the Final Four, has Louisville playing its best basketball of the season when it counts most. After Louisville's two blowout wins last weekend, Pitino's signature zone and pressure limited the high-scoring Volunteers to 34-percent shooting. The veteran coach improved to 8-0 in regional semifinals and secured a date with top-seed North Carolina on Saturday night.

"One of the keys on defense all year has been changing it up," Pitino said. "When you give any good team a steady diet of one

defense, it's not quite as good. We extend our zone almost like a half-court trap, and we don't give the wings good looks."

Terrence Williams and Andre McGee each added 13 points and David Padgett had 10 points and eight rebounds for Louisville (27-8), which nearly blew all of a 16-point first half lead, only to take control midway through the second half. The Cardinals are vying for their second Final Four trip in six years under Pitino. He also took them there in 2005.

"The last three games, our offense and our defense have both been clicking," Pitino said. "There have been games where our offense has clicked or our defense has clicked, but our defense has stayed constant most of the year."

Chris Lofton scored 15 points for No. 2 seed Tennessee, but was 3-for-15 in his final game with the Volunteers (31-5), who have never advanced beyond the round of 16.

After a horrible start, Tennessee got within 37-36 early in the second half thanks to its own defensive pressure, which forced 20 turnovers.

But then the springy Clark, who has come on in the NCAA tournament, had a driving layup, hit a baseline jumper and converted a three-point play in a 13-5 run.

Louisville's defense didn't allow Tennessee to get back in it again, and the Cardinals hit all nine free throws over the final 5 minutes to keep Tennessee at bay.

"I've been coaching a long time and never has the tempo of the game been dictated so much by an opponent," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "We usually dictate tempo. We attacked the pressure and we had opportunity to hurt the press, but we just didn't finish."

JaJuan Smith added 12 points and Tyler Smith had 11, but the Volunteers continued their NCAA tournament shooting slump.

Tennessee went 5-for-20 from 3-point range and finished 11-for-58 in three games. It was another disappointing end for Pearl, who has resurrected the program at Tennessee in his third season, but hasn't been able to get the Vols into the round of eight.

The Volunteers, who were outrebounded 43-28, dropped to 0-5 in regional semifinals and finished with a school record for victories in a season.

"This doesn't take much away from the finest season in the history of Tennessee basketball," Pearl said. "No team has accomplished the things these guys accomplished this year, and I'm awfully proud of them."



Louisville power forward Earl Clark dunks the ball in front of Volunteer forward Tyler Smith in the Cardinals 79-60 win Tuesday.

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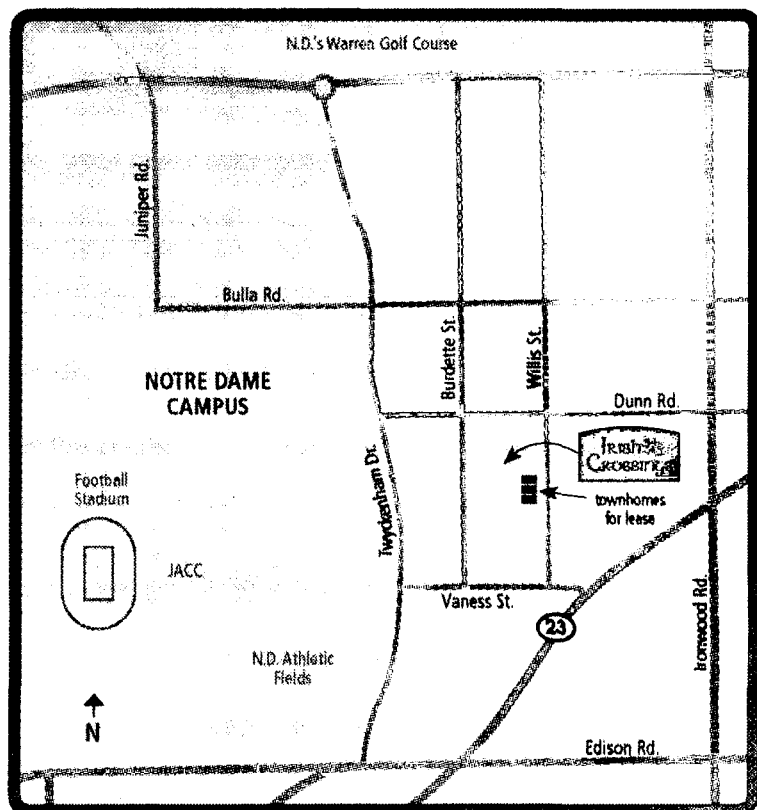
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish look to end three-game skid against OSU

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is looking to bounce back after three straight losses, but the No. 27 Irish will have to be on top of their game as they take on No. 2 Ohio State.

The Irish have had recent luck against the Buckeyes despite losing to them 7-0 last year in Columbus. Overall, the Irish hold the upper hand in head-to-head competition with a 26-22 record.

"Two years ago they came here and we upset them," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Last year we went there and they beat us, but I feel like we can compete with them and make it a close match."

The Irish recently fell to No.

50 Kentucky with their other two losses coming at the Blue Gray Tennis Classic. The Irish fell to No. 33 Boise State, and No. 8 Tulsa in two close matches.

"We were in all of our matches against both Boise State and Tulsa," Bayliss said.

"Against Kentucky, Brett (Helgeson) was up a set and 4-3 when the match was stopped. (Dan) Stahl has won a lot of close matches lately."

After the National Team Indoors, Bayliss decided a change needed to be made in the doubles lineup to get more

productivity out of his No. 2 and 3 slots in the lineup.

The No. 1 team of senior Sheeva Parbhu and Helgeson did not change. However, Bayliss teamed junior Santiago Montoya with senior Andrew Roth, and slid freshman Stephen Havens down to No. 3 doubles to play with fellow freshman Tyler Davis.

"The freshmen team has not lost a match at No. 3 doubles," Bayliss said. "The No. 2's beat North Carolina State and Boise State in Alabama."

Bayliss also noted that the

"Each of the guys have had their moments in the sun. Hopefully, the maturity I expect will show itself soon."

Bobb Bayliss
Irish coach

No. 1 doubles team has struggled since Alabama, but has confidence they will pick up the aggressiveness again.

With their recent struggles Bayliss is continuing to look for ways to improve his starting lineup.

"Sean Corrigan, Matt Johnson, and Takashi Yoshi are competing well in practice and are close to breaking into the lineup," Bayliss said. "Each of the guys have had their moments in the sun. Hopefully, the maturity I expect will show itself soon."

Bayliss also said he has started four freshmen in the lineup in every match.

This season the Irish will face eight of the top 16 teams in the nation.

"Those matches will put the young guys under the gun,"

Bayliss said. "But at the NCAA's we will have seen everything out there and if it doesn't pay off this year, it will definitely help for next year."

The Irish know they have a tough task ahead of them against the Buckeyes, with the Buckeyes only loss coming to No. 1 Virginia in the finals of the National Team Indoors earlier this year.

"Ohio State is very good at doubles, and that will give us a good challenge," Bayliss said.

The Irish will take on the Buckeyes at 4 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion Friday. After the Buckeyes, the Irish will stay home and take on Ball State April 4.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@stmarys.edu

ND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

ND to kick off Big East play

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

After dispatching IUPUI with an 8-0 victory in its home opener Wednesday, Notre Dame (16-9) will hit the road again for its conference openers in a double header at DePaul Sunday.

"This team is itching to play in the Big East and prove what Notre Dame softball is about this year," junior pitcher Brittney Bargar said.

The beginning of the conference season signals the opportunity for the Irish to live up to their expectations.

"This conference season, I expect perfection, out of myself as well as this team," Bargar said. "We have the talent this year, and the sky is the limit."

Thursday's scheduled game against Illinois-Chicago was postponed and has not been rescheduled.

The Blue Demons (19-9) currently sit at No. 24 in the USA Today/NFCA poll.

The Irish met the Blue Demons three times last year, losing twice at DePaul in late April before exacting some revenge on their home field with an 8-2 victory in a game that advanced the Irish to the finals of the Big East tournament where they fell to Louisville. Those eight runs served as a stark contrast to the one run the Irish were able to muster in their first two games against DePaul in 2007.

In that semifinal game, sophomore Christine Lux knocked a three-run home run in the top of the third to go along with a two-RBI double by junior Linda Kohan to lead the way for the Irish offense, while Bargar limited the Blue Demons to just two earned runs on three hits while striking out six.

While DePaul made an early exit from the Big East tournament at the hands of the Irish last year, it managed to rebound from that setback and post a 6-2 record in the Women's College World Series. They were elimi-

nated by a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Arizona. The Blue Demons ended up No. 6 in the final USA Today/NFCA poll of 2007.

This weekend, DePaul is coming off of a special kind of warm-up to the Big East season. On Wednesday, the Blue Demons played an exhibition game against the USA National Team as part of its Bound for Beijing Tour.

DePaul suffered a 23-0 loss at the hands of the soon-to-be Olympians, as starter Lindsay Dean gave up 13 runs on three home runs and four doubles in the opening frame. While the result of the exhibition game may not look pretty, playing against some of the best hitters, pitchers, and fielders in the world can only help with preparation for the Big East season.

The most recent regular season game for the Blue Demons was a hard fought 1-0 loss to San Diego St. — a game that wasn't decided until the eighth inning.

Conversely, Notre Dame's win over IUPUI was efficient, convincing, and over after only five innings. Freshman pitcher Jody Valdivia earned her third shutout of the season, while senior Katie Laing and freshman Katie Fleury each posted two-RBI performances.

DePaul will offer a challenge for the Irish, but Bargar and her teammates are ready for Sunday.

"[DePaul] has some great hitters and a great pitching staff," she said. "But I expect to win both games."

The Irish and Blue Demons will square off twice Sunday with the first game set to begin at 12 p.m. at Cacciatore Stadium in Chicago.

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles try to bounce back after home loss

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's heads off to Wheaton, Ill., this weekend to take on Olivet Nazarene and Wheaton College in the Wheaton Invitational Tournament.

The Belles (4-6, 0-2 MIAA) lost their home opener Wednesday to conference rival Calvin (7-1, 1-0 MIAA), 6-3.

"Calvin is a very good team, and we knew they were going to be very good coming in," Belles coach Chuck Rubino said. "But we had a good effort on our part. We had some good matches with our No. 2 in singles, Jillian Hurley, and in the No. 6 spot with Jessica Camp. In doubles, we let some slip away from us."

In singles, the Belles went 2-4, with No. 2 Hurley and No. 6 Camp, both freshmen, the only two to come out on top for the Belles, winning in three sets each. Hurley defeated Calvin's Kaitlin Spoelhof 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 6-4, bringing her singles record to 9-1. Camp went 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (7-2), beating Calvin's Kelsey Bushhouse. Saint Mary's No. 1 Camille Gebert fell 6-3, 6-0; No. 3 Betsy Reed lost 6-2, 7-5; No. 4 Jessica Kosinski was swept 6-4, 6-0; No. 5 Lisa Rubino was defeated 7-5, 6-1.

Saint Mary's fell in doubles competition on Wednesday as well. The No. 1 pair of sophomore Camille Gebert and freshman Hurley won their fifth match together, bringing them to 5-5 as a pair with their 8-6 win over Calvin's Melissa Oosterhouse and Rachel Strikwerda. But the winning stopped there. The No. 2 duo of

Reed and Rubino fell 8-6 by Calvin's Kaitlin Spoelhof and Jill Van Veen. The No. 3 team of Franca Peluso and Mary Therese Lee lost 8-0 to Calvin's Elisabeth Geenen and Rachel DeGroot.

"I do think our doubles are improving," Rubino said. "Especially at No. 1 and No. 2 we are starting to learn how to play doubles. We're real close to winning sets and matches in the middle of our singles too."

With a young team of two sophomores and eight freshmen, Saint Mary's has had to do some adjusting this season.

"We need to learn to compete on the next level, and that's an ongoing process," Rubino said. "Our girls are learning that this is a new level, and it takes some adjustment, and we're working towards that."

This weekend, Saint Mary's will take on Olivet Nazarene Friday morning at 11:30 a.m. and Wheaton College at 3 p.m. Saturday. Olivet Nazarene, ranked No. 18 in the NALA, is 2-0 for their spring season, after winning the Tri-State Conference Championship in the fall. Wheaton is currently ranked No. 18 in the ITA for Division III schools.

"This is going to be a very strong tournament," Rubino said. "Very stiff competition that will force us to try to improve. We'll give our best effort, and hopefully the strong competition will pay off towards the end of the season. Our goals are to win as many flights as we can and improve."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu



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NBA

Anthony-Iverson duo combine for 63 in win

Afflalo scores 15 stepping in for Hamilton as Detroit clinches Central division title with win over beleaguered Heat

Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and sparked the decisive run in the third quarter of the Denver Nuggets' 118-105 win over the sliding Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night.

Allen Iverson added 31 points for the Nuggets, who won their fourth straight and moved into a tie with Golden State for the eighth and final playoff spot, one game behind the Mavericks. The Warriors played Portland later Thursday night.

The Nuggets' grand night was capped when forward Nene entered the game with 1:17 left, marking his return to the court 22 months after surgery to remove a malignant testicular tumor, and just over a month after undergoing chemotherapy.

He was given a rousing standing ovation as teammate Kenyon Martin embraced him in a bear hug. Nene hoped to play 5 minutes, but those plans were scrapped when the Nuggets fell behind early.

"It's not about how he plays," coach George Karl said an hour before tip-off. "We're just happy he's back and we're going to celebrate his health, we're going to celebrate his coming off of major cancer surgery, and we're just going to celebrate. This has nothing to do with basketball. We're just happy he's with us."

The Nuggets also got 10 boards from Anthony and overcame a 30-point night by Josh

Howard and 19 points and 15 assists from Jason Kidd.

The Mavericks are 10-9 since acquiring Kidd from New Jersey, but none of the wins was against teams with winning records. Six of their final 10 games are against teams above .500.

Dallas fell to 1-1 since losing MVP Dirk Nowitzki indefinitely with knee and ankle injuries.

After trailing by 15 points early, the Nuggets took a 94-86 lead into the fourth quarter.

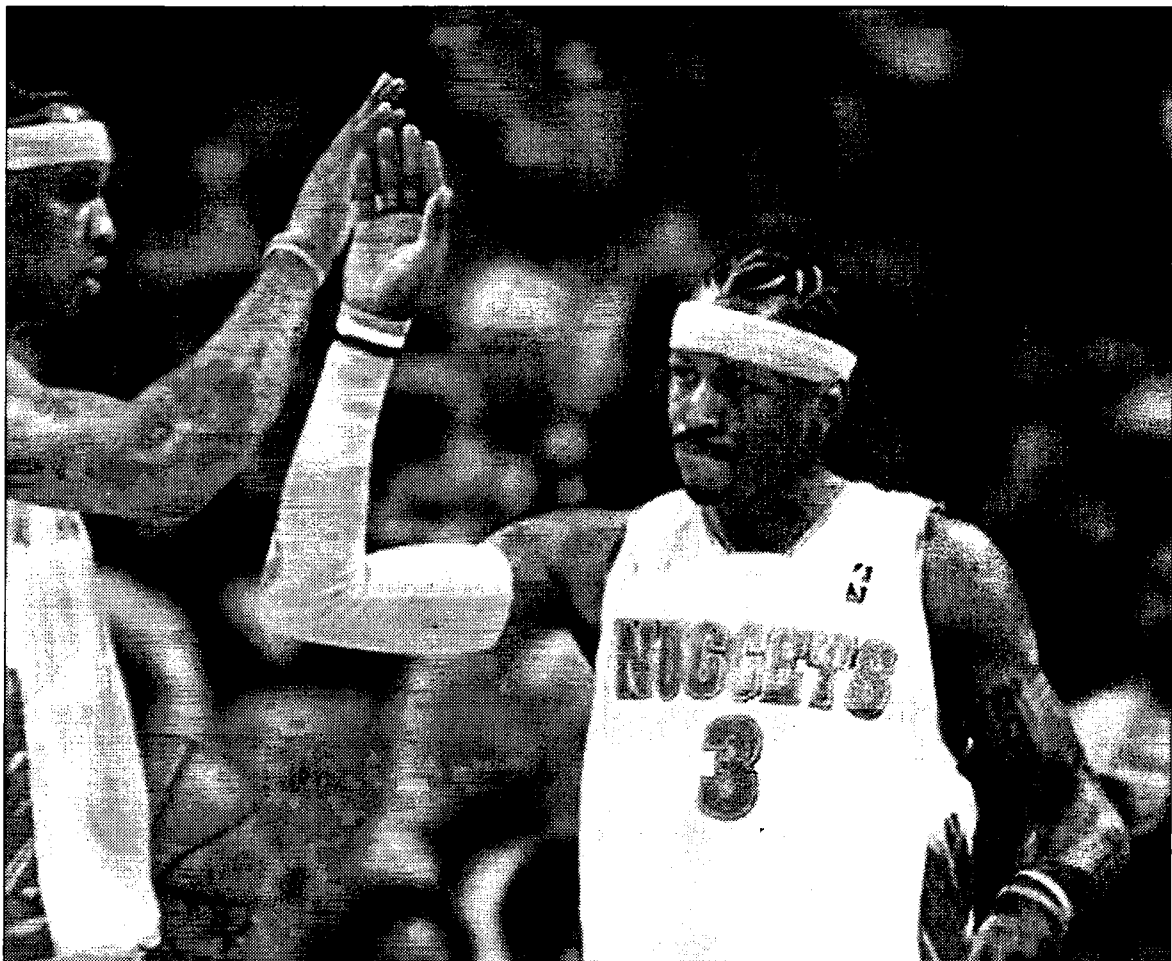
Kidd was left unguarded on the left elbow and swished a 3-pointer in the third quarter to give the Mavericks a 79-71 lead, but the Nuggets responded with an 18-2 run.

Anthony scored half of the points in the game-turning spurt. His breakaway slam dunk gave Denver its first lead since the opening minutes, and Anthony Carter followed with a breakaway finger-roll to make it 82-79 and force a timeout.

After a jumper by Howard, Anthony sank four free throws with 3:17 left in the third quarter for an 86-81 lead after Dallas coach Avery Johnson and Howard received technicals for arguing a personal foul on Howard.

Howard surpassed his scoring average of 19.6 points with a 22-point first half, leading Dallas to a 70-60 lead at the break.

With 16 points, Jerry Stackhouse (10.6) also surpassed his scoring average by halftime. So did Kidd (10.6) with 13 points as Dallas shot 60 percent from the field.



Nuggets small forward Carmelo Anthony high-fives teammate Allen Iverson in Denver's 118-105 victory over Dallas Thursday.

Pistons 85, Heat 69

When Arron Afflalo gets a rare start for the Detroit Pistons, he knows he isn't going to be the focus of the opposing defense.

Thursday, the rookie took advantage.

Afflalo, starting in place of the injured Richard Hamilton, had a career-high 15 points as the Pistons clinched the Central Division title with a 85-69 victory over the Miami Heat.

"I'm out there with four All-Star-caliber players, so they aren't going to be paying much attention to me," Afflalo said. "I hit a couple shots early and that let me get comfortable."

Afflalo talked to the media while watching his alma mater, UCLA, take on Western Kentucky in an NCAA tournament game.

"The best part about my situation is that I've got a lot of veteran teammates that have all been through this before," he said. "They are able to calm me down and tell me what to do."

Despite their constant teasing about his poor dunking ability — Rasheed Wallace told him after the game to shoot 3-pointers on the fast break to avoid embarrassment — Afflalo has earned the respect of his teammates.

"He's done a great job all year," said Chauncey Billups. "He's worked hard in practice, he works hard before games, and when he gets an opportunity, he takes it. He's been big."

The win ensured Detroit's fourth straight division title and sixth in the last seven years.

"It means a lot," Billups said. "Every year, we're picked to finish second, third, maybe even fourth, but at the end, we're in first. That feels good."

Detroit didn't clinch the title in stellar form, though. The Pistons came in having lost three of four, and struggled against the hapless Heat.

"Those guys had nothing to lose, and they were going to try to prove some things — earn a roster spot or secure things for next year," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We executed down the stretch. Any time you hold a team, I don't care who it

is, to 24 points in the second half, you have a chance to win."

Miami, which has lost 13 of 15, dressed nine players, including four rookies and two second-year players.

"It's hard to evaluate young guys when you aren't playing them with your best players," said Miami coach Pat Riley. "We're asking them to do things we wouldn't normally expect them to do."

Rookie Blake Ahearn, who came into the game with seven career points, led Miami with 15, but only two other players reached double figures.

"The guys that are out there playing, we have a lot of pride," said Chris Quinn, who led Miami's starters with 11 points. "The only thing we can do is play as hard as possible. We've got 10 or 11 games left, and we've got to leave it all out there."

Reserve Jason Maxiell had 15 points for Detroit, while Billups added 13 points and 11 assists.

Miami led for most of the first half and had an eight-point advantage late in the second quarter, but Detroit narrowed the gap to 45-43 at intermission. The Heat outrebounded the Pistons 20-15 in the half, including a 6-1 advantage on the offensive boards.

The Pistons went ahead early in the third quarter, but wasted an opportunity to build a big lead. They missed seven free throws in the period, including five by Antonio McDyess.

That let the Heat stay in the game, but Detroit had expanded the margin to 66-55 by quarter's end. Maxiell had 11 points and five rebounds in the period.

Miami got within 70-65 with 7:30 to go, but Rasheed Wallace answered with a 3-pointer. Afflalo's three-point play moved the lead to 80-69 with 2:39 left and the Pistons finally took control.



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ROWING

Squad opens spring season

Captains will split time between Pac-10 Challenge and Lubber's Cup

By LULU ZHANG
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's crew team, led by senior captains Allison Marsh, Laura Pearson, and Amanda Polk, will open its 2008 spring season with two challenges — part of the team will head to Palo Alto, Cal. to compete in the Pac-10 Challenge presented by

Windmere Real Estate, while the other will head to Grand Rapids, Mich. to compete in the Lubbers Cup.

Notre Dame faces Stanford on Saturday morning, UCLA on Saturday afternoon, and UC Berkeley on Sunday morning. The team has won the women's trophy the past two years at the Lubber's Cup, and although they have a reduced squad this year, Coach Stone says they are up to

the challenge.

Coach Stone said the team had scrimmaged Northeastern over break, but has a more solid-line up at this point. The team has been training hard, and Stone is expecting a great performance from each member of his squad in its opening weekend.

Contact Lulu Zhang at
lzhang5@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Irish gear up for 3-game series against Bearcats

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

About a week and a half ago, Notre Dame (12-7-1, 3-0) seemed to hit rock bottom after blowing a seven-run lead in the last two innings to Texas Pan-American. Talk about a turnaround. Headed into their three-game series against Big East rival Cincinnati (10-9, 2-1), the Irish have won five in a row since the Broncos' debacle.

"We're much more confident now," Notre Dame coach Dave Schrage said. "We've been pitching a lot better and our offense has been explosive. It also helps when you have Evan Sharpley batting as well as he is. He's knocked six homeruns within the past couple of games and driven in a bunch of runs."

After the sweep of Big East rival Georgetown, the junior was named the Big East player of the week for his offensive production, making him the first Irish player to gain the honor since Craig Cooper did so in April 2006.

With the win streak, Schrage said he can feel his younger players gaining confidence and starting to fit into their roles.

"Oh, they're definitely maturing," he said. "They're developing as a group, and overall just playing with more confidence. A lot of them are starting to understand where they fit in on the team. Sometimes when you come in as a freshman, you're not exactly sure what to expect, and since we play a lot of first-year kids, we had some early struggles."

Notre Dame looks to stay undefeated in conference play against the Bearcats this weekend, while Cincinnati would love to gain some ground in the league standings.

Despite the Irish momentum, Schrage does not want to take the Bearcats lightly, mainly because of their own recent hot streak.

"They're playing real well," Schrage said. "They're coming in as a talented bunch on a four-game streak of their own. Their pitching is much improved from last season. [Cincinnati] also has a veteran lineup that features some speed. They're leadoff man, [senior] Tony Campana is the fastest guy in the league. They've got speed in the middle of the lineup, mixed in with some solid hitting."

In the Irish five-game win streak, two factors have been constant — an offensive explo-

sion, in addition to solid pitching performances. In the five contests, the Irish have outscored their opponents by a margin of 58-9.

At the heart of this offensive outburst have been a key number of players, including sophomore A.J. Pollock, who went 4-for-5 against Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Irish 14-3 victory Wednesday. He registered three singles, a triple, a stolen base, and RBI as well as scoring five runs in the contest. The sophomore even flashed some leather earlier this week, coming up with a pair of impressive diving catches in right field. Pollock leads the team in both hits (29) and batting average (.454).

Pitching has also been strong for Notre Dame. Freshman Ryan Sharpley tossed five scoreless innings, including a no-hitter through four against the Panthers. In addition to picking up his first career victory, the freshman also drastically cut his ERA in half, from 5.40 to 2.70.

Taking the mound against Cincinnati in the series opener Friday will be junior right-hander, David Phelps, who had three straight solid starts. Despite struggling in his opener, the right-hander has come back and frustrated opposing batters, going deep into games. In 20 of his past 21 starts, Phelps has lasted at least five innings.

In the second game of the series, senior southpaw Wade Korpi will take the mound as he looks to improve on his 4-1 record. Korpi has allowed a team-high five home runs, although none have come over his past three starts.

To finish off the series, the Bearcats will face sophomore Eric Maust whose 1.93 ERA is the team-low amongst the Notre Dame starters. One of the more encouraging aspects of Maust's pitching is that he has improved in each of his following starts.

Coach Schrage does not shy away from his beliefs that his starters' play has been a major reason for the hot streak.

"It's definitely one of the main reasons behind the turnaround," Schrage said. "Maust gave us eight innings and Korpi gave us seven last week, and that's what we've been asking of them all season — the ability to go deeper into the games, and let [junior] Kyle Weiland close out the games. We've been able to do that as of late and its turned into wins."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at
lreyes@nd.edu

SHAKESPEARE AT NOTRE DAME

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MEN'S TRACK

Irish to head outdoors for the first time at ASU

New players and new events will challenge ND

By EUGENIA ALFONSO
Sports Writer

After a good showing at the indoor NCAA Championships, Notre Dame can finally take a breath of fresh air.

Notre Dame is heading outdoors for the Arizona State Invitational in Tempe, Arizona, home of the 2008 Men's and Women's Indoor NCAA Champions Sun Devils.

While only consisting of sprints and field events, the Irish will try to compete against the likes of Brigham Young University, Loyola Marymount, Air Force and more. Not only does Notre Dame face new competitors, it faces new events as well. Junior Austin Wechter will be running in the 400-meter hurdles while sophomore Brandon Denon, junior John Belcher and senior Mike Schubert will test their skills in the discus.

The 4-by-400-meter relay team of junior Billy Buzaid, freshman Miklos Szebeny and sophomore Balasz Molnar will accompany teammate Wechter on their trip to Tempe. Buzaid and

Szebeny will also participate in the 400-meter run, hoping to finish well and help boost the Irish running events.

Freshmen Tyrell Atkins will also sprint for the Irish. He's expected to run in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash.

The throwers include freshmen Greg Davis, freshman Denes Verez, junior Jeff Mensch and upperclassmen Denon, Belcher and Schubert. Davis, Belcher and Mensch will be doing the weight throw while Denon and Schubert participate in the shot put. Verez will take part in both events hoping to repeat his second-place finish at the Big East Conference meet last month.

As for the jumps, sophomore Eric Quick will participate in the long jump and triple while junior Blair Macjina will compete in the high jump. Junior Brian Mahon and sophomore Matt Schipper are both participating in the pole vault.

The Arizona State University Invitational begins on Friday at 5 p.m.

Contact Eugenia Alfonso at calfonzo@nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sloppy UCLA ekes by WKU

Associated Press

UCLA can make a double-digit victory look difficult.

With Kevin Love scoring a career-high 29 points, the Bruins nearly frittered away a 21-point halftime lead and hung on to defeat Western Kentucky 88-78 in the NCAA West Regional on Thursday night.

Top-seeded UCLA (34-3) will play No. 3 seed Xavier on Saturday for a trip to its third consecutive Final Four.

The Bruins were more relieved than happy to survive the Hilltoppers, who took advantage of UCLA's sloppy play to pull within four points late in the game.

"Unacceptable, unacceptable, unacceptable," Love said. "That's all I can say."

"It was unacceptable the way we played in the second half. If we're going to keep playing like that, we're not going to be in this tournament very long."

The Bruins routed over-matched Mississippi Valley State in the first round but haven't resembled a No. 1 seed since. They sweated out a two-point victory over Texas A&M in the second round.

"That was another exciting game for all the Bruin fans out there," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "We want to keep you guys awake and on the edge of your seat."

Without Love, the Bruins would be in hibernation already. Love had 14 rebounds and hit 10-of-14 shots from the floor.

Love had help from James Keefe, who had 18 points and 12 rebounds, both career highs. Russell Westbrook added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Keefe, a sophomore who has

battled back from shoulder surgery last August, played sparingly most of the season.

"I mean, this is why I came back, you know?" Keefe said.

Tyrone Brazelton scored 31 points — 25 in the second half — and Courtney Lee added 18 for 12th-seeded Western Kentucky (29-7).

"We just dug ourselves too big of a hole in the first half," Western Kentucky coach Darrin Horn said. "I'm unbelievably proud of my team."

Early on, the Bruins looked primed for a blowout, blitzing the Hilltoppers with a 23-4 run midway through the first half.

UCLA led 41-20 at halftime, but Western Kentucky wouldn't go away. The Hilltoppers began pressing, and the Bruins started to unravel. They had 12 turnovers in the first 15 minutes of the second half and finished with 19, a season high.

The Bruins appeared in trouble when point guard Darren Collison fouled out — for the first time this year — with 5:39 to play. Collison had four points and four turnovers.

"They came out in some different angles," Collison said. "We didn't read the plays right. Everybody was sped up."

As the U.S. Airways Center crowd got behind them, the Hilltoppers went on a 19-6 run to whittle the lead to 61-57 with 6:50 to play. Brazelton capped the run by scoring eight unanswered points in less than a minute, on back-to-back 3-pointers and a layup.

But A.J. Slaughter missed a 3-pointer that would have pulled Western Kentucky within one point, and then Love scored from close range. Josh Shipp, an erratic long-range shooter, hit a

3 to push UCLA's lead to 68-59 with 4:30 to play.

"That in a nutshell was the game," Horn said. "It changed all the momentum. We had spent so much energy to get back into it, played so hard to get back, if that three goes down and we cut it to one, it's a totally different situation down the finish."

Howland was so desperate to stem the tide that he called his final timeout. Steadied, the Bruins did not let the Hilltoppers draw closer than six the rest of the way.

Perhaps it was no surprise that UCLA let the scrappy Hilltoppers back in the game. The Bruins rolled into the desert on a 12-game winning streak, but they hadn't been dominant. Five of their last eight wins had been by three points or less, and another came after they forced overtime.

The Hilltoppers had won eight straight games and reached the round of 16 for the first time since 1993, when Horn was a sophomore guard. At No. 12, Western Kentucky was the lowest remaining seed in the tournament, along with Villanova.

Early on, Western Kentucky looked the part of a 12th seed. The Hilltoppers came out jittery, with four turnovers in the first three minutes. And they had more turnovers (nine) than field goals (six) in the first half.

Lee made two of his first 13 shots from the floor.

Things were no better at the other end, where Western Kentucky had no answer for Love.

D.J. Magley and Jeremy Evans each fouled Love in a 5-second span in the first minute, and Evans went to the bench with his second foul three minutes into the game.

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Pearce

continued from page 28

has a positive outlook on having to compete for his position, even during the season.

"As the season's gone on and I've played more and more, I've felt more confident in the net, learning from experience," Pearce said. "I'm not complacent and I'm not taking my spot for granted even now — I know I have to play and battle for my own position."

"Competition always breeds

excellence, as they always say. You look down the ice and you see Phill[ips] and [sophomore] Tommy [O'Brien] making big saves and playing well, and it makes you even better, makes you want to work even harder."

While the favorite for the job was a mystery to the players, Jackson said he was confident Pearce would eventually be the one to emerge.

"I told him going into the season that it was his job to lose," Jackson said. "He was a junior, he had paid his due, he didn't mope, he didn't [complain]. He fought through the last two years, and I think that's a part of why he's having success now — he didn't let it impact him in a dramatically negative way."

If anything, Pearce said, watching Brown, a Hobey Baker finalist last season, contributed positively to his play.

"The one thing I admired most about David Brown was his consistency, especially last year," Pearce said. "He always was on top of his game, and our team was always in it — I don't think he ever had a bad game, and I remember one bad goal through the whole year, maybe."

And Pearce, who boasts a conference-best 1.95 goals-against average, has done just that, even through Notre Dame's second-half scoring drought that has seen the Irish score more than two goals just three times since the end of January.

"The thing that has impressed me is that there's been a lot of pressure on him because we haven't been scoring," Jackson said. "Every game has been like if he gives up a goal, we might lose — 1-0, 2-1, or whatever. He's dealt with that pressure very well, he hasn't broken down, and I think he played his best game as our goaltender Friday night [in a 2-1 overtime loss to No. 3 Miami (Ohio)]."

Pearce's performance on Friday, and really throughout his whole junior season, hasn't come as much of a surprise to Jackson — though the third-year Irish coach did have his

initial questions about his net-minder.

"I had the confidence to think he could be a good goaltender," Jackson said. "I was more concerned about his mental make-up, as far as his ability to overcome adversity, his mental toughness — because I didn't really know what it was. I'd challenge him all the time in practice, and I never got much of a response from him, so I didn't really know what to expect in that area."

"Ability-wise, I thought he had it, and he's proved to me that he's ready to compete, battle, play tough when he needs to play tough. He has a great temperament in that he doesn't let things rattle him."

That will be key for Pearce and the Irish tonight against a high-powered New Hampshire offense. Rest assured, though, that if Notre Dame extends its season, Pearce will have been a major factor.

"No matter who wins Friday night or Saturday night or in the Frozen Four, a big part of it is going to be because of goaltending," Jackson said. "You can't win a championship without great goaltending, at any level. It's just like winning a championship without a great pitcher or a great quarterback — you have to have that go-to-guy, that guy that can make the difference in goal."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

"No matter who wins Friday night or Saturday night or in the Frozen Four, a big part of it is going to be because of goaltending."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Lady Vols

continued from page 28

many weapons that you really can't just go at one person and try to shut one person down."

Because of that, McGraw said, she would look for a defense that could guard many people simultaneously.

"The problem with Tennessee I think they're all going to get their points," she said. "So we've got to make a stand somewhere. That's what we'll have to decide."

To combat Parker, Notre Dame has a senior class that isn't quite done yet. Gaines and guard Charel Allen, whose career-high 35 points put Notre Dame in the Sweet 16, continue

to drive the team, McGraw said.

"I think Tulyah and Charel have a great sense of urgency," McGraw said. "Tulyah has had that all year long. She has been the driving force of the team. She is the heart and soul of our group. She gives us energy and makes us go."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink1@nd.edu

ND Women's Tennis

Irish try to stretch win streak to 6

In-state rival No. 24 Indiana faces No. 19 Notre Dame at home

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

No. 19 Notre Dame (12-7) will put its five-game win streak on the line against the No. 24 Indiana Hoosiers Sunday at 12 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Indiana (14-3) entered Friday with a seven-game win streak and has a chance to extend that streak to eight against Michigan State on Friday before the Hoosiers travel to South Bend for just their fourth road match of the year.

Indiana is 2-1 in road matches but faces a tough test coming to Notre Dame as the Irish are 6-1 at home for the dual season.

The Hoosiers' impressive overall record comes against an unimpressive schedule. Indiana has played just two ranked opponents and lost both matches whereas the Irish are battle-tested, going 2-6 against their eight ranked opponents.

Indiana has also yet to face

much individual competition. Over their 17 matches, the Hoosiers' singles players have faced only eight ranked singles players all season. The Irish have a 17-29 record in singles matches against ranked players.

In their match-up with the Irish, the Hoosiers will face three ranked singles players in Notre Dame's No. 38 junior Kelcy Tefft, No. 105 sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu, and No. 114 sophomore Kali Krisik.

The strength of Indiana's singles lineup is at the bottom. Brianna Williams, who has been playing No. 5 singles, has won seven matches in a row and is 16-1 for the dual season.

Myriam Sopel, who has been playing No. 6 singles in the Hoosier lineup, follows Williams. Sopel has triumphed all six times she has taken the court this dual season.

This dynamic pair teams up to comprise Indiana's most successful doubles duo. The pair of Sopel and

Williams is 10-1 playing together, primarily as the No. 3 doubles team for the Hoosiers.

The Irish doubles attack has dropped just two of 18 matches amidst a streak of six doubles points wins in a row. The pair of Tefft and senior Brook Buck remain No. 1 in the country while the No. 50 pair of Ciobanu and sophomore Colleen Rielley continue to quietly dominate with a 12-1 record.

On the singles side, the Irish win streak has been led by the strong play of Krisik. She is 16-3 on the dual season and has won 14 of her last 15 matches. The dominance of Krisik and solid play and the bottom can often go overlooked in the lineup.

The competition between Indiana and Notre Dame's strong bottom halves should be intense and could ultimately decide if the Irish streak will grow to six.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastet@nd.edu

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NCAA

continued from page 28

The No. 4 Irish will match up against the No. 1 seed University of New Hampshire in the first round of the West regional in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Wildcats are led by senior forwards Matt Fornataro and Mike Radja, who combined for 89 points on the season. In net, Kevin Regan led the Hockey East Association with a sterling 2.12 GAA and .933 save percentage.

"We've seen a little bit of them on film already," Irish senior captain Mark Van Guilder said. "But they're a talented team [with] good speed."

The speed may play to New Hampshire's advantage on the Olympic-size ice sheet at World Arena, which is slightly bigger than the NHL-size rink on which the Irish are used to playing. The Wildcats, on the other hand, play their home games on the larger sheet.

Jackson, though, has plenty of experience on the larger rink during his time coaching the United States junior team. He said some effects of the rink, like the theory that the added open space leads to more offense, were exaggerated.

"I think it actually hurts the game offensively because there's so much additional space that you can kind of get lost in," Jackson said. "The biggest thing is that you have to learn to play more inside the dots."

"It's an ocean, so if you get trapped playing outside the areas that you normally do, you can play a lot of perimeter hockey."

However, Jackson said the Wildcats like to spread the puck out around the ice and this could work to their advantage on the bigger sheet. New Hampshire, like the rest of the IHEA, plays a much more open, free-flowing game. The conference is traditionally smaller and quicker than the rough-and-tumble CCHA.

"They're an extremely talented team," Jackson said. "They have the same kind of talent as a team like Miami, but they play the

game a little differently."

Van Guilder compared the Wildcats' offensive talent, if not playing style, to CCHA rival Michigan.

"They have that kind of talent and that kind of speed," Van Guilder said. "We're going to try to frustrate them again like we do against offensive-minded teams. It'll be a challenge."

This is the second straight year the Irish have qualified for the NCAA tournament, and only the third time in the program's history. Last year, the Irish beat

Alabama - Huntsville 3-2 in double overtime in the first round, but fell to eventual champion Michigan State in the second round. This year, the Irish head into the Tournament with a slightly different mindset than last year, when they were

the No. 1 overall seed.

"It's a little different, obviously you're opponent's going to be a little bit stronger," junior forward Garrett Regan said of being the underdog. "[But] we know what we've got going on inside of our locker room, and from that standpoint, it doesn't really change from last year."

If the Irish beat UNH on Friday afternoon, they will move on to face the winner of the Michigan State-Colorado College matchup.

The Irish have plenty of experience with the Spartans, having played them twice in CCHA play this season, falling 3-1 in East Lansing and tying 1-1 in the Joyce Center. Notre Dame hasn't faced the Tigers, though, since it lost 3-1 in the 2005 season.

"That bracket is awesome," Van Guilder said. "There's awesome teams there."

For now, though, Jackson and the Irish are focused on New Hampshire and only New Hampshire.

"We're 120 minutes away from playing in the Frozen Four, and that's the way we have to look at it," Jackson said. "But we've got to tick off every minute with great play. We have to worry about the first minute before we worry about the first 20 or the first 60."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

UNH

continued from page 28

because they were good. From 1992 until the present, the Wildcats have missed the NCAA Tournament only three times (1993, 1996, 2001). They played for the national championship twice (1999, 2003), and tickets to see their games were hot commodities mostly gotten from friends who knew friends who had a couple extra.

UNH players came to skate and teach at our youth hockey practices, and we played a lot of our games on their massive Olympic ice surface at the Whittemore Center. During the winter that the Whit was being built, the Wildcats practiced at our local rink, a 30 second bike ride from my house.

My teammates from the youth hockey league would line around the rink during their practices, hoping for a stray puck shot over the net or trying to snag a broken stick.

The Wildcats were larger-than-life celebrities to kids and adults alike, regarded much in the same way that Notre Dame football players often are.

Not much has changed since then. And that goes for the one stigma that sticks to UNH like wide right haunts Scott Norwood.

The Wildcats choke in the NCAA Tournament.

For a Notre Dame team that

struggled the second half of the season and lost two games before backing into the Tournament as a No. 4 seed against No. 1 UNH today, the Wildcats' Tournament history is a bright spot.

Last year, No. 1 seed UNH lost to No. 4 Miami in the first round regional game played in Manchester, N.H. — a 60-minute drive from their campus.

The Wildcats have lost by scores of 7-1 (as a No.3-seed to No.2-seed Harvard in 1994) and 9-2 (in the first round to No. 6-seed Denver in 1995 as a No. 3-seed). In 2000, auto-bid Niagara wiped them out of the first round with a 4-1 surprise.

Overall, UNH has a 12-20 record in the NCAA Tournament, including losses in the championship game to Maine and Minnesota — the latter a 5-1 slaughter that was never close.

Notre Dame has played a grand total of three Tournament games with a 1-2 record, two games of which came last year with a first-round win before a quarterfinal loss to Michigan State.

The UNH Tourney history book is a leather-bound Encyclopedia Britannica volume to Notre Dame's Chinese food takeout menu. And that experience counts against a lot of teams.

But maybe not the Irish.

Notre Dame has an ace up its sleeve, the king of hearts

that took the Irish from league bottom feeder to national contender. That man is Irish coach Jeff Jackson.

Jackson already has won three national championships and seems destined to pack on a few more before he's done. He knows how to coach his players for the biggest stage in college hockey, which has always been a criticism tossed around UNH coach Dick Umile.

In hockey, the intangibles — the ability to motivate, to instill confidence, to never under or overestimate an opponent — make a huge impact. The truth is any team can win a hockey game, no matter how bad they look on paper. It only takes a weird carom off the corner boards to the front of the net or a lucky deflection to turn a game.

UNH's Tournament futility could just be a case of bad luck repeated on an endless loop that is finally broken this year. Or Notre Dame's struggles in the second half of the season could disappear behind a miraculous playoff run.

It could go either way. But if the Irish pull off the upset on Olympic ice and defeat No. 1-seeded New Hampshire in the Rockies tonight, don't be surprised.

New Hampshire doesn't always do what it should, trust me on that one.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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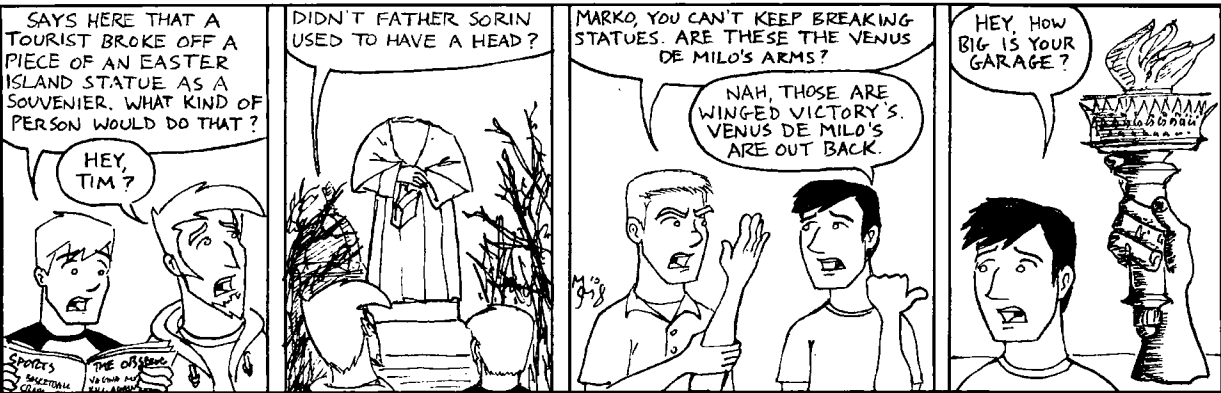
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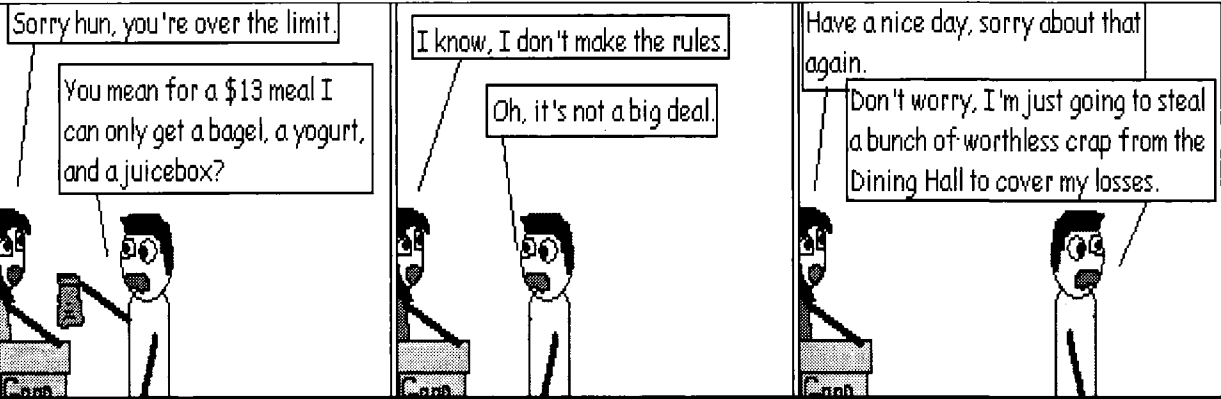
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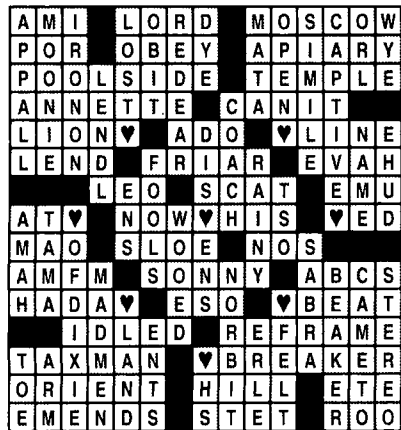
THE SINGLE LIFE



CROSSWORD

- Across
- 1 Didn't take advantage of
- 9 Muscleheaded
- 15 He conducted the premiere performances of "Pagliacci" and "La Bohème"
- 17 Bands of holy men
- 18 Become one
- 19 Newspaper column separators
- 20 _____ Elliot, heroine of Jane Austen's "Persuasion"
- 21 Star of "Gigi" and "Lili"
- 22 Put on an unhappy face
- 23 Revival movement's leader?
- 24 Strand at the airport, maybe
- 25 Maker of Coolpix cameras
- 26 Stray animals don't have them
- 27 _____ Couple (yearbook voting category)
- 28 "Field of Dreams" actress Amy
- 31 1979 #1 hit for Robert John
- 32 More of the same
- 33 Like St. Basil's
- 34 Incite
- 35 Center
- 36 Yielding ground
- 39 Young cowboy in "Lonesome Dove"
- 40 Ships on the seafloor
- 41 Roofing choice
- 42 Compliant
- 44 Gives up responsibility
- 45 Sometime soon
- Down
- 1 Game featuring Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde
- 2 Photographer/children's author Aida
- 3 Jelly seen on buffet tables
- 4 Kind of protector
- 5 Pennsylvania's Flagship City
- 6 Vet, e.g.
- 7 Stage actress who wrote "Respect for Acting"
- 8 Pilot light?
- 9 Treat badly
- 10 Albee's "Three _____ Women"
- 11 Vast
- 12 One that gets depressed during recitals
- 13 Awaiting burial
- 14 Files a minority opinion
- 16 Boxy Toyota product
- 21 Some emergency cases may be found in them
- 24 Steely Dan singer Donald
- 25 Some Degas paintings
- 26 1939 film taglined "Garbo laughs"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

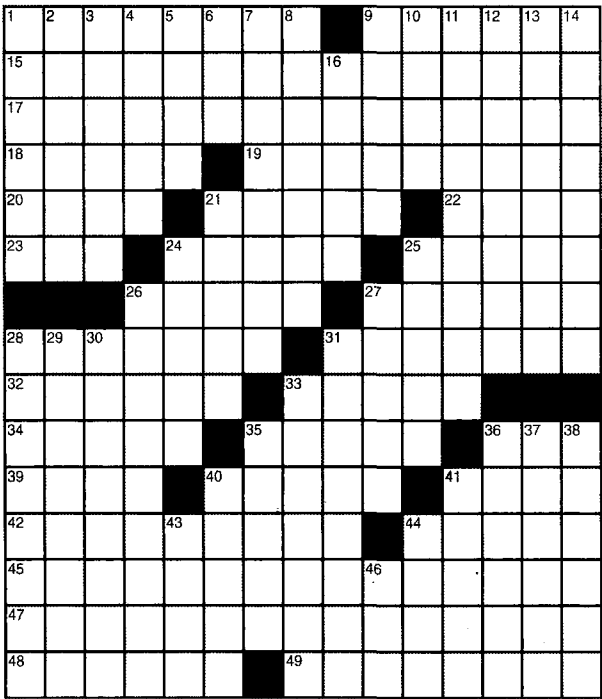


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Puzzle by Patrick Berry

- 27 First African-born Literature Nobel
- 28 "Is There Life Out There" singer
- 29 Titular mouse in a classic Daniel Keyes novel
- 30 1600 to 1800, on a boat
- 31 Big hit
- 33 Number to the left of a decimal point, maybe
- 35 Unlikely to rattle or squeak, say
- 36 Trifling
- 37 Political extremists
- 38 Roughly a third of the earth's land surface
- 40 Carthaginian statesman who opposed war with Rome
- 41 Rwandan people
- 43 Blue shade
- 44 Great literature's opposite
- 46 Possible work force reducer

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BASAH

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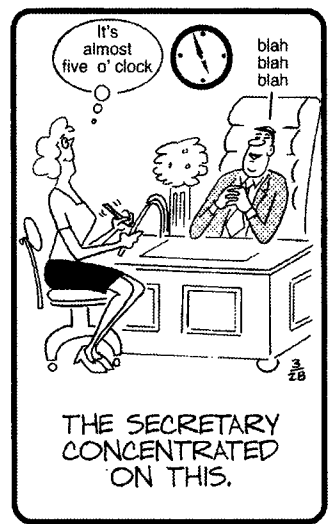
STINCH

BROSAB

Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAIZE CHANT ADROIT FINITE
Answer: What he paid when he hired the tax advisor — ATTENTION

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Liquor? You hardly even know her. Lick me? Okay.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't get hit by Maxwell's silver hammer...dummy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Did you know Dustin Hoffman plays Captain Hook? Also, how cool would it be to have a hook for a hand?

CANCER (June 21-July 22) In the same vein, what's the deal with cyborgs that have wheels for legs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Did you know there's a school in California called UCLA? Dumb name.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't settle for plain pee. Try to dehydrate yourself and make it orange.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Gyrate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's time to re-scab.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Hey, wanna go between the buns? I mean, do you wanna go to Between the Buns?

CARPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Look out for the Butt-baby. He's growing up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Bend and snap. Text (585)975-9265 if you know where that reference comes from. The winner will get my main props. Not propellers, just props!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Oh, WORD!

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HOCKEY

It's Tourney time

Squad faces NH after nearly missing NCAAAs

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame may be lucky to have made the NCAA tournament, but now that it has, the Irish plan on making some serious noise.

"We have nothing to lose. It's one game or done," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said. "We might as well go out and empty the tank and play the very best we can to see if we can't play again Saturday with an opportunity to get to the Frozen Four."

Just making the Tournament was a challenge for the Irish, who qualified despite losing in the CCHA semifinals against Miami, and then falling to Northern Michigan in the consolation game. Due to the complex nature of the selection process, if Notre Dame had tied NMU instead of lost, it probably would have been left out of the NCAA Tournament.

see NCAA/page 26



WU YUE/The Observer

Junior right wing Erik Condra skates up the ice looking for an attacking option against Ferris State in a 6-3 Notre Dame win on March 15 in the CCHA tournament.

Jeff Jackson brings in winning ways for Irish

I grew up a 20-minute drive away from the University of New Hampshire's campus, along one of the wooded, two-lane roads that pass for major thoroughfares in my state.

Like someone who was born and raised in Tuscaloosa on 'Bama football, there was no college team more important than UNH hockey. OK, Alabama football and New Hampshire hockey may differ more than their fans' accents, but there was no denying that in rural New Hampshire, the Wildcats were king.

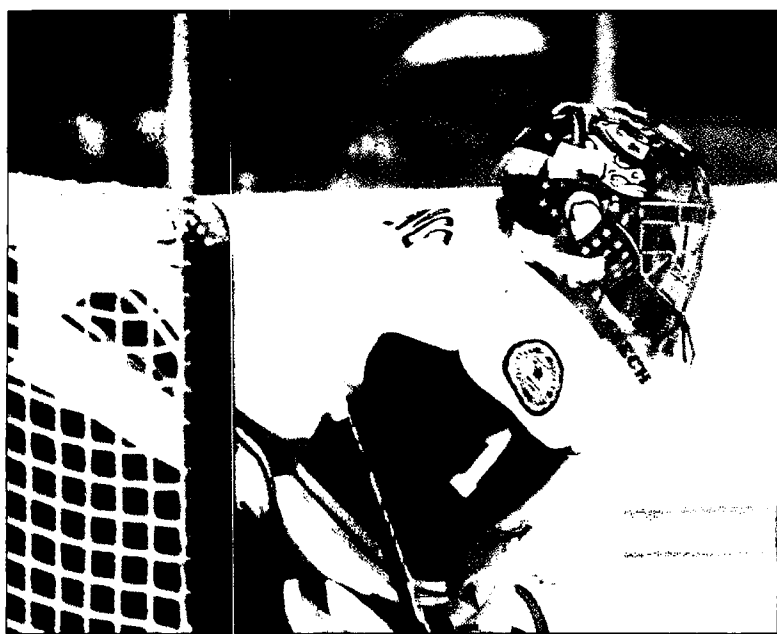
They were hockey gods



Kyle Cassily

Senior Sports
Writer

see UNH/page 26



IAN GAVLIKCK/The Observer

Junior goalie Jordan Pearce stands in goal against Bowling Green in a 2-1 Irish win November 20.

After playing backup, Pearce claims top spot, CCHA top goalie honor

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

What a difference a couple of months has made for Jordan Pearce.

When the junior goalie took the net in the season opener on Oct. 12 against Wisconsin, he was still in the midst of a battle for his starting spot with highly-touted freshman Brad Phillips right on his heels.

When Pearce skates into goal tonight with Notre Dame's season on the line, however, he'll do it as Notre Dame's unquestioned backstop, the 2008 CCHA goalie of the year.

"If it wasn't for him, we probably would have had a difficult time making the Tournament," coach Jeff Jackson said. "He's played well throughout this whole [second-half] stretch. He's become the backbone of our team, and he's gotten better as the season's progressed."

But that doesn't mean he didn't showcase his ability right from the get-go, right wing Mark Van Guilder said.

"The first game of the season against Wisconsin, he was amazing in that first period, right away," the senior captain said. "That was huge for his confidence, and he's built on that and rode it all the way through the season."

Though Pearce is in his third year with the Irish program, his action was rather limited for his first two as the back up to All-American David Brown.

Pearce started six games as a freshman and just three a year ago, and while he was impressive in posting a 2.01 goals-against average as a sophomore, he remained a relative unknown.

"There were question marks," Van Guilder said. "We knew he was a good goalie coming into the season, but everyone, with losing Brownie from last year, was saying 'How are we going to replace him?' Well, we're going to replace him with Jordan Pearce, that's what we're going to do."

"There's a lot of people that were doubting that he could have the year that he's having, and he's got so much confidence now after the season he's had."

Pearce agreed, though he still

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After 24-point loss earlier in the year, Irish to face Lady Vols

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

On a neutral court, Notre Dame will face a two-loss team that beat them by 24 points in the Joyce Center. A team that has won all 19 of its games against the Irish. A team with the best player in the country and one of the best coaches in the history of the game. And a team who can shoot from the outside, something the Irish struggle to defend.

Notre Dame is in it deep. These are the obstacles that coach Pat Summitt, forward Candace Parker and No. 1 seed Tennessee present when they face the No. 5-seed Irish at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City

Sunday at 9:30 p.m. during the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

But Irish coach Muffet McGraw said these are the obstacles Notre Dame must look past to be successful.

"We have a lot of respect for Tennessee and what they've done, but we cannot come into the game feeling intimidated," she said.

Notre Dame reached the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2004. Players who have been to the Tournament before are telling the freshmen to enjoy it.

"I was talking to [guard Melissa] Lech[litner], she said, 'Soak it up, it doesn't happen very often,'" freshman guard Brittany Mallory said. "I'm very

happy with my team, and can't wait to play Tennessee."

Not surprising, considering the outcome of the last game between the two teams. Tennessee hit 11-of-20 3-point attempts when it beat Notre Dame 87-63 on Jan. 5 at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame still has trouble guarding teams behind the arc — Oklahoma guard Jenna Plumley hit six of her 10 3-point attempts and the team hit nine of its 16 during Notre Dame's 79-75 overtime win over the Sooners in the Tournament's second round Tuesday.

"We definitely got yelled at for that," guard Tulyah Gaines said of Plumley's performance.

Mallory said the team is always

thinking about improving perimeter defense.

"That's something in the back of our mind that we know we need to work on," Mallory said. "We've just gotta get out and play. We can't let [Vols guard Angie] Bjorklund or anyone get hot on their team."

McGraw agreed and said the team put too much stress on post defense.

"We just have to get that attitude of, we're going to get out and guard the 3-point line," she said. "I think we're too worried about inside."

Both McGraw and the players stressed team defense as a necessary factor for a win over Tennessee. The Lady Vols score 78.8 points per game and have

two legitimate 3-point threats. Guard Alexis Hornbuckle hits 43.5 percent of her 3-point attempts, and although Bjorklund averages a comparatively middling 37.4 percent from behind the arc, she buried seven of nine against the Irish in January.

Not to mention Parker, who averages 21.1 points per game and 8.2 rebounds per game. She had 20 points and eight rebounds in the first contest against Notre Dame.

"I think we were worried so much about Candace Parker we didn't pay enough attention to the perimeter," McGraw said. "And I think that they have so

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